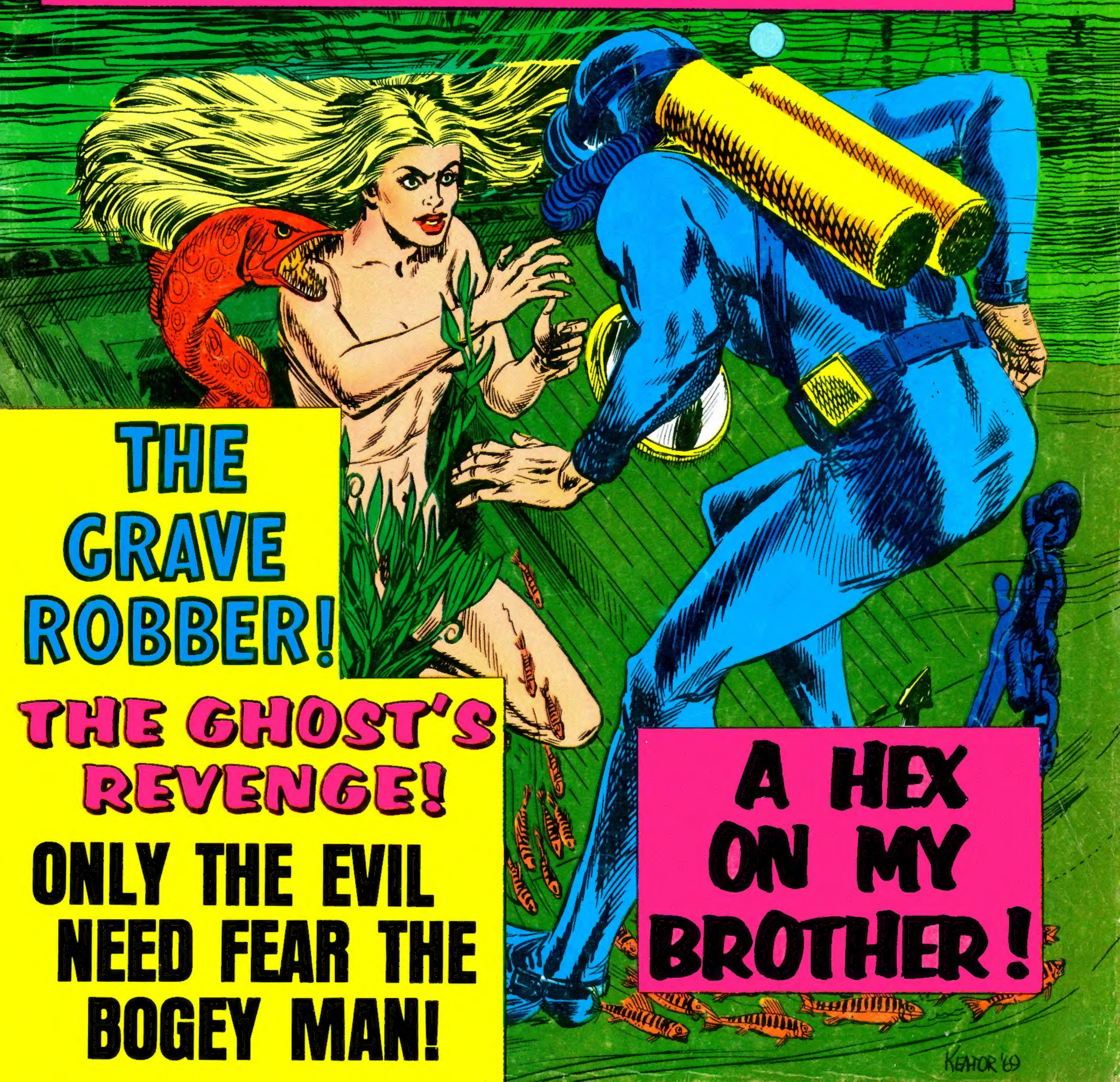


SHOCK

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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE



**THE
GRAVE
ROBBER!**

**THE GHOST'S
REVENGE!**

**ONLY THE EVIL
NEED FEAR THE
BOGEY MAN!**

**A HEX
ON MY
BROTHER!**

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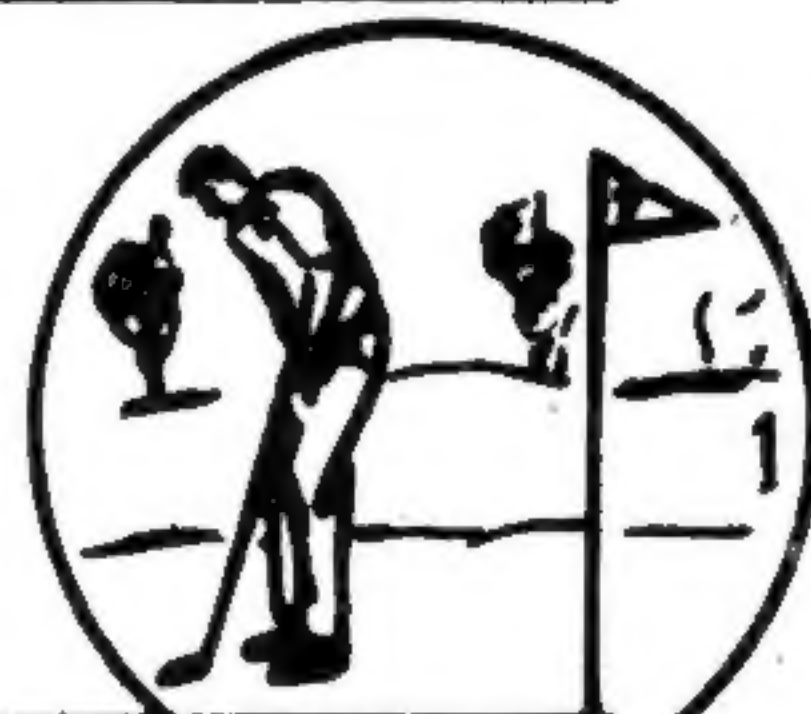
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SHOCK

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

JANUARY 1970

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IN THE GLOOMY SHADOWS LURKS A HUGE, THREATENING SHAPE! FROM THE MISTY DEPTHS OF MEMORY, IT RISES TO HAUNT OUR DREAMS, EVIL, FORBIDDING -- THE **BOGEY MAN**? AN IMAGINARY TERROR OF CHILDHOOD? OR IS IT SOMETHING EVEN MORE TERRIFYING -- SOMETHING **REAL**? PERHAPS THE AWESOME ANSWER LIES IN THIS GRIMLY BELIEVABLE TALE OF--

ONLY THE EVIL NEED FEAR THE BOGEY MAN



OUR STORY BEGINS WITH NOTHING MORE HORRIFYING THAN A MOTHER SENDING HER LITTLE BOY OUT TO PLAY--

NOW BE A GOOD BOY, BILLY-- OR THE **BOGEY MAN** WILL GET YOU!

OKAY, MOM-- ME AND THE FELLAS ARE GONNA DIG FOR GOLD!



AND WHERE CAN TERROR BE FOUND IN THE HAPPY VOICES OF CHILDREN?

HEY, FELLAS-- LOOK WHAT I FOUND BURIED UNDER THE ROCKS!

GOSH! LOOKS LIKE A-- BOMB!



AH, BUT CHILDISH CURIOSITY OFTEN LEADS TO-- **TRAGEDY**! STOP, BILLY-- BEFORE IT'S **TOO LATE**!

LET'S OPEN IT AND SEE!

THIS OUGHTA DO IT!



SUDDENLY, A SHARP **CRACK**
--AND THE MYSTERIOUS
OBJECT BURST OPEN!

THERE'S SMOKE
COMING OUT
OF IT!

LOOK
OUT! IT
MAY EX-
PLODE!



WHAT HIDEOUS THING
WAS THIS, WHOSE MASSIVE
FORM CAST AN
ANCIENT SHADOW
ACROSS THE 20TH CENTURY?

RUN! IT'S THE
BOGEY MAN!

HE'S
REAL--
AND I
ALWAYS
THOUGHT
MY FOLKS
WERE
FOOLIN'!



WAIT! DO NOT FEAR ME!
I HARM ONLY THOSE
WHO DO NOT SEE ME!
FOR I AM INVISIBLE ONLY
TO THE WICKED!

HUH?



STILL FEARFUL, THE BOYS
PAUSED-- TO MARVEL AT
THE STRANGE MONSTER'S
WONDROUS TALE--

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO,
I WAS CREATED BY A
NOBLE SORCERER-- TO RID
THE LAND OF EVIL---



"FOR LONG, I DID MY DUTY WELL
--SIN WAS NEARLY ENDED--"

YOU CANNOT SEE ME?
THEN YOU ARE EVIL MEN--
AND SO-- **DIE!**



"BUT ONE DAY, A BAND OF WICKED MEN DIS-
COVERED THE **ONE THING** AGAINST
WHICH I WAS HELPLESS-- **AMBERGRIS!**
I WAS DRUGGED, IMPRISONED--"

HA! THE AMBERGRIS
--IT WORKS! HE
SHRINKS TO
NOTHING!

IN THIS METAL
SHELL, HE WILL BE
HARMLESS-- FOR
ALL TIME! WE WILL
BURY HIM IN SOME
DISTANT LAND!



BUT NOW **YOU** HAVE RESTORED ME TO
MY ORIGINAL SELF! ONCE MORE I AM
FREE TO HELP DESTROY WICKEDNESS
IN THE WORLD!

GOSH! AN' WE
ALWAYS
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
BAD!



THUS BEGAN A STRANGE FRIENDSHIP, WITH THE BOYS LITTLE DREAMING THAT THEY COURTED **DISASTER!**

GEE, MISTER BOGEY MAN-- CAN WE HELP YOU FIGHT THE BAD MEN?

WELL, PERHAPS YOU MIGHT POINT OUT WICKED PEOPLE TO ME -- AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME! IT WOULD SAVE TIME!

I'VE HEARD THE MAYOR AND HIS GANG ARE PRETTY DURN WICKED!



GEE, I WONDER WHAT HE'LL DO TO THEM?

OH, PROBABLY SEND THEM TO BED WITHOUT ANY SUPPER -- OR MAYBE EVEN PUT THEM IN **JAIL!**



AND SO, ON A VACANT LOT THAT RANG WITH BOYISH LAUGHTER, THE SCENE WAS SET FOR A WEIRD KIND OF **TERROR!**

HMM-- LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE BUSY HERE!



INVISIBLY, THE MONSTROUS GENIE FOUND HIS WAY TO THE CITY HALL -- THEIR TO BEGIN HIS FEARFUL CAMPAIGN--

WELL, BOYS, I SAID YOU'D BE RICH IF YOU STUCK WITH ME! THE SUCKERS AREN'T WISE TO US YET!

ALL WE GOTTA DO IS GET RID O' THAT NOSEY REPORTER, TRENT!



LATER, WHEN THE BOYS READ OF THE POLITICIANS' "PUNISHMENT"--

G-GOSH! I DIDN'T THINK HE MEANT TO-- **KILL ANY-BODY!**

HE SAID HE'S GONNA PUNISH JAKE HINZ, THE GAMBLER, NEXT! AND I'M THE ONE WHO TOLD HIM ABOUT JAKE!



HORRIFIED AT THE SLAUGHTER THEY HAD LOOSED UPON THE TOWN, BILLY RACED TO SEE HIS FRIEND, REPORTER CARL TRENT--

CARL-- I KNOW WHO KILLED THE MAYOR!

WHAT? C'MON --BETTER TELL IT TO THE POLICE!



WHILE THE POLICE WAITED BREATHLESSLY--

NOW, SON, YOU SAY YOU KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THIS VICIOUS KILLER?

SURE I DO!

IT WAS THE **BOGEY MAN**!

REMEMBER, CHIEF--HE'S ONLY A KID!

B-BUT IT WAS THE **BOGEY MAN**--AND HE'S GONNA KILL **JAKE HINZ** NEXT!

C'MON, BILLY--

MEANWHILE, A SCENE OF HORROR WAS BEING ENACTED NOT FAR AWAY--

SO, JAKE HINZ, YOUR VICIOUS CAREER IS AT AN END--AT LAST!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT HEADQUARTERS--

HEY, CHIEF-- SOMEBODY JUST WIPED OUT JAKE HINZ AND HIS WHOLE MOB!

HUH?

SEE? I TOLD YOU

QUICK-- TAKE ME TO SEE THIS "**BOGEY MAN**"!

SURE, HE'S AT OUR CLUBHOUSE RIGHT NOW!

ON THE WAY, BILLY TOLD CARL THE **BOGEY MAN**'S INCREDIBLE STORY-- AND A FEW MINUTES LATER--

IF THERE'S A **BOGEY MAN**--OR ANYBODY ELSE-- IN THERE, I'M BLIND! THE PLACE LOOKS EMPTY TO ME!

THEN-- IF YOU CAN'T SEE HIM, YOU'RE **BAD**! GO 'WAY!

ABOUT TO LEAVE, CARL PAUSED, AS--

HELLO, BILLY-- WHY SO SORROWFUL?

HEY! THAT WAS A BASS VOICE! THERE IS SOMEBODY--OR SOMETHING--IN THERE! BILLY'S STORY MAY BE **TRUE** AFTER ALL!

FROM BEHIND HIM, ANOTHER VOICE-- THIS TIME A LOVELY SOPRANO--

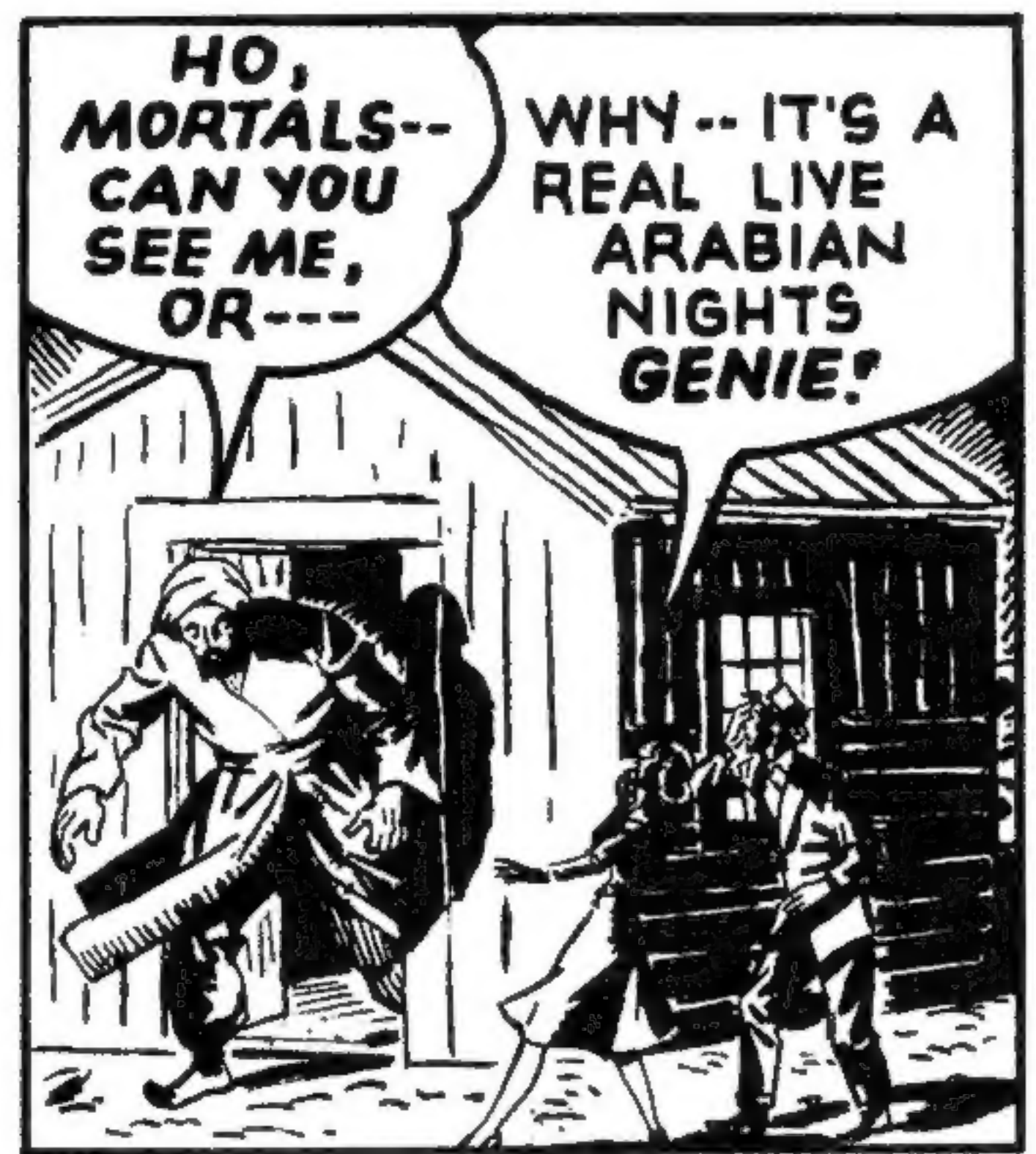


I'M NANCY GEER, BILLY'S TEACHER! HE'S BEEN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL A LOT LATELY, SO I THOUGHT I'D CHECK!

I THINK YOU'LL FIND YOUR ANSWER IN THERE!



BUT TO CARL'S HORROR, THE DOOR SUDDENLY OPENED-- AND A SCREAM OF FEAR TORE FROM NANCY'S THROAT!



AND THEN CARL REMEMBERED-- THE GENIE WAS INVISIBLE TO THE WICKED-- WHOM HE QUICKLY KILLED!



LESS FORTUNATE, THAT NIGHT, WERE THE TWO POLICEMEN WHO FAILED TO SEE THE APPROACH OF HULKING DOOM--

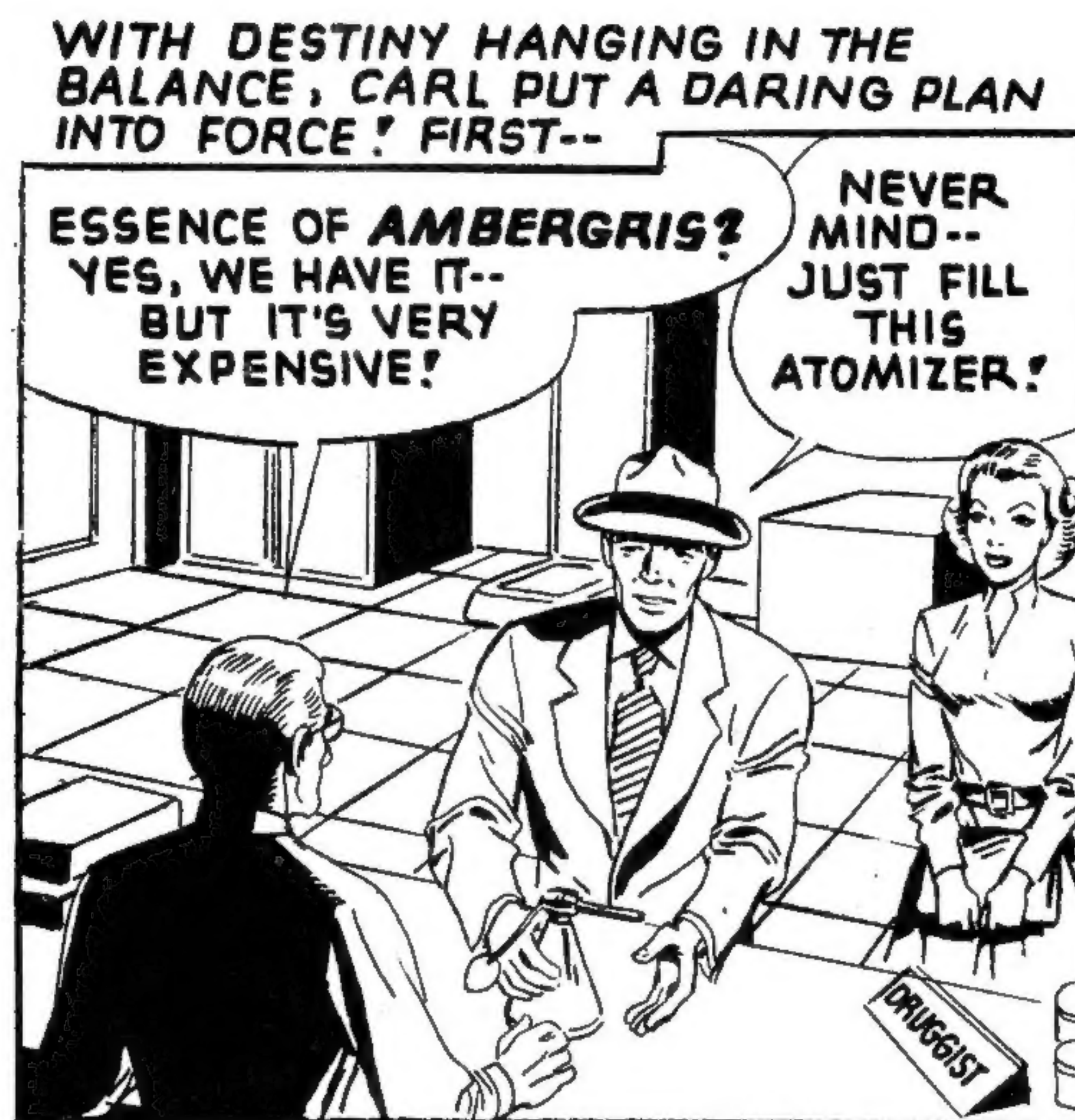


NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL, NANCY AND CARL TOLD BILLY OF THE GRISLY CRIME--

YOU SEE, BILLY, TIMES HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE BOGEY MAN WAS YOUNG! WHAT WAS EVIL IN HIS DAY IS NO LONGER EVIL-- EXCEPT TO HIM! SO-- IF HE KEEPS THIS UP, HE'S GOING TO KILL OFF EVERYBODY EXCEPT THE KIDS!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! MISS GEER AIN'T A KID-- AND SHE CAN SEE HIM!





MEANWHILE, BILLY, HIDING HIS TERROR, SPOKE TO THE BOGEY MAN BRAVELY--



AS THE MONSTER TOOK THE LIST, CARL LEAPED INTO LIGHTNING ACTION--



BUT FROM THE ATOMIZER, CAME-- NOTHING!



WITH CARL POISED ON THE BRINK OF DEATH,
NANCY RUSHED FORWARD, AND--



THEN, AS THOUGH CHARMED BY
THE LOVELY GIRL, THE SUPER-
NATURAL GIANT RELAXED--
YOUR PRESENCE-- SOOTHES
ME... I FEEL-- SLEEPY--



WHAT STRANGE CHANGE WAS
THIS? THE BOGEY MAN
SENSED IT, TRIED TO
AROUSE HIMSELF, BUT--



THERE! HE'S
BOTTLED
UP TIGHT--
FOREVER!



ALL TEACHERS KNOW THAT OIL
OF AMBERGRIS IS USED TO
MAKE EXPENSIVE **PERFUMES!**
SO, WHEN WE CAME TONIGHT, I
WORE PLENTY OF MY BEST
PERFUME-- JUST IN CASE! THE
SMELL OF THE AMBERGRIS WAS
SO DISGUISED, THE POOR
BOGEY MAN DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT HIT
HIM!



THE
END

THE GRAVE ROBBER!

THIS IS THE PULSE-THROBBING STORY OF A SACRED IDOL, OF VODOO MAGIC AND **A MAN WHO STOLE FROM THE DEAD!** FOR ONE TERRIFYING NIGHT, AN IRRESISTIBLE FORCE OF UNSPEAKABLE HORROR HELD SWAY---WHILE THE OMINOUS BEAT OF NATIVE DRUMS ECHOED INTO THE JUNGLES---CALLING FOR REVENGE, AND FOR---**THE CURSE OF RADA!**

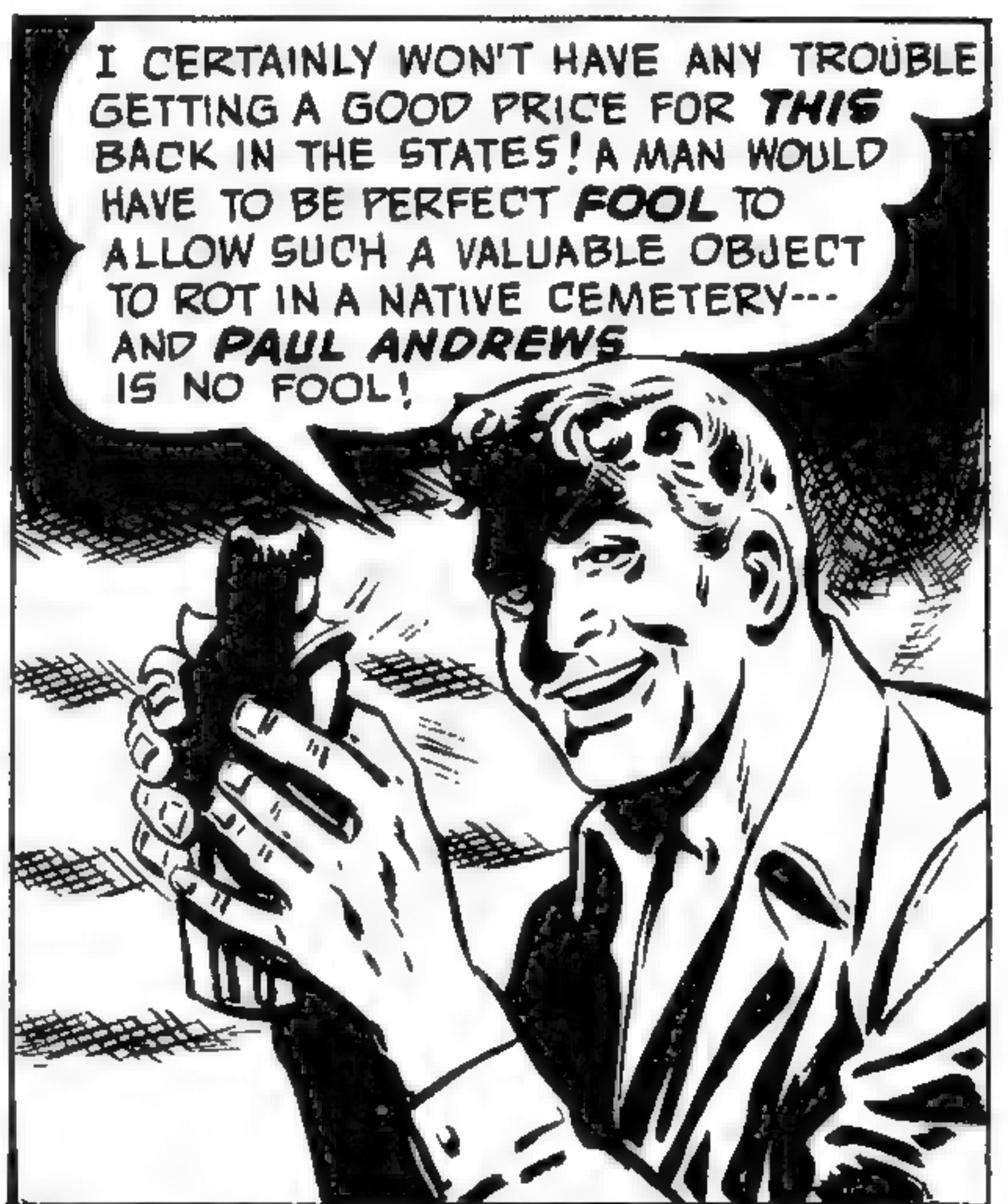


IN A NATIVE CEMETERY ON THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA---

HA! I **KNEW** THIS CEMETERY WOULD PROVIDE WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR---A **PERFECT** EXAMPLE OF ANCIENT NATIVE WOOD CARVING!



I CERTAINLY WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING A GOOD PRICE FOR **THIS** BACK IN THE STATES! A MAN WOULD HAVE TO BE PERFECT **FOOL** TO ALLOW SUCH A VALUABLE OBJECT TO ROT IN A NATIVE CEMETERY---AND **PAUL ANDREWS** IS NO FOOL!



2 SHORT WHILE LATER, ON THE VERANDA OF A NEARBY PLANTATION---

HERE COMES PAUL NOW! I DON'T KNOW WHAT DEVILISH BUSINESS HE'S UP TO AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT, BUT IF HE WEREN'T YOUR **BROTHER**, MEG---I'D---

DON'T MAKE A **SCENE**, CARL--- **PLEASE!** HE PROMISED TO **LEAVE** IN A FEW DAYS!

LOOK AT WHAT I FOUND, FOLKS--- ISN'T IT A BEAUTY? THAT CEMETERY BEHIND THE GROVE IS **LOADED** WITH THE STUFF!

WHY, YOU GHOULISH NINCOM-POOP---

YOU'LL TAKE THAT BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM---**UNDERSTAND?** GET THAT THING OUT OF HERE BEFORE I BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR MISERABLE BODY!

CARL--- PAUL--- **PLEASE!**

DARLING, YOU PROMISED TO AVOID ARGUMENTS! I'M SURE MY BROTHER CAN EXPLAIN---

THERE'S NOTHING TO EXPLAIN, MEG! HE'S **YOUR** HUSBAND AND HE MAY PUSH **YOU** AROUND---BUT NOT **ME!** THIS PIECE IS **MINE**, AND I INTEND **KEEPING** IT!

OKAY, HAVE IT YOUR WAY, PAUL, BUT GET THIS STRAIGHT! I WANT YOU TO PACK YOUR THINGS AND GET OUT! IF YOU'RE NOT GONE BY MORNING I'M TOSSING YOU OUT ON YOUR EAR!

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY! I'VE GOT WHAT I WANT, AND I'M CERTAINLY FED UP WITH **YOUR** PRESENCE! GOOD NIGHT, DEAR BROTHER-IN-LAW!

3 MOMENT LATER---

DON'T BE ANGRY WITH ME, MEG---I WAS ONLY TRYING TO AVOID TROUBLE---**SERIOUS** TROUBLE! TAKING THINGS FROM NATIVE BURIAL GROUNDS IS DANGEROUS BUSINESS! CALL IT SILLY IF YOU WANT, BUT THESE IS-

LANDERS HAVE WAYS OF **KNOWING** THINGS--- AND **PUNISHING** OFFENDERS!

Y-YOU MEAN--- **THEY'D FIND** OUT?

4 SUDDENLY---CREEPING ACROSS THE HUSHED JUNGLE WITH THE MUFFLED THUD OF FORBIDDEN THINGS---

CARL! TH--THAT NOISE! I---IT SOUNDS LIKE **DRUMS!**

IT... IT IS! **VOODOO DRUMS!** YE GODS, MEG---**THEY KNOW** ALREADY! THAT BROTHER OF YOURS HAS **STARTED** SOMETHING AWFUL---AND ONLY HEAVEN KNOWS WHERE IT WILL **END!**

BOOM! BOOM!

MEANWHILE...
IN A NATIVE CEREMONIAL HUT...

TRIOUBLED SPIRIT IN THE FLAME,
STATE YOUR CAUSE IN RADA'S NAME!

THEN, FROM THE SWIRLING MISTS THAT
WRITHE SERPENT-LIKE IN THE GLOOM...



HEAR ME, **EVIL** HAS BEEN DONE! THE **LIVING**
HAVE STOLEN FROM THE **DEAD**...AND NOW,
THE SPIRIT OF RADA WILL NOT REST TILL
WHAT WAS TAKEN IS **RETURNED**!



SO BE IT... O SPOKESMAN
OF THE GODS! YOUR COMMANDS
SHALL BE OBEYED! I SWEAR IT
... **BY THE POWER OF
RADA!**

THEN GO...
THE **EVIL
OFFENDER** IS
NOT FAR OFF! NOW
I VANISH... **THE
GODS HAVE
SPOKEN!**



SOON THE NIGHT AIR VIBRATED WITH
THE CHANT OF NATIVE VOICES! TORCHES
FLICKERED AND NAKED FEET SHUFFLED
OMINOUSLY TOWARD THE NEARBY PLANTATION...

CARL... THOSE
NATIVES...
**THEY'RE
COMING
HERE!**

I'LL TRY STALLING
THEM, HONEY... BUT I
HAVEN'T MUCH HOPES!
IT'S UNCANNY, BUT THEY
KNOW THAT THE
STATUETTE IS HERE
...JUST AS YOU AND
I DO!



MOMENTS LATER... AS CARL
PREPARED TO DEFEND HIS HOME...

WAIT! OUR QUARREL IS NOT WITH
YOU... BUT WITH THE ONE WHO
STOLE FROM OUR DEAD!
THE MAGIC OF **RADA** HAS TOLD
US WHO THE EVIL ONE IS...
AND WE HAVE COME FOR
WHAT IS **OURS!**



SUDDENLY...

WELL, TURN BACK... BECAUSE
NOW THAT STATUE IS **MINE!**
IF YOU FILTHY BEGGARS CAN'T
UNDERSTAND THAT, **HERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU
WILL!**

PAUL, YOU
FOOL... **PUT
AWAY THAT
GUN!**



I'LL **BLAST
EVERY...
UGH!**











AH, AT LAST!
NOW WE MUST
SPEAK BEFORE
THE OTHERS
COME!

YES, BUT FIRST...
I MUST TELL YOU
---SOMETHING---



YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL...THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL CREATURE I'VE
EVER SEEN! THERE'S A
SPELL ABOUT YOU I CAN'T
RESIST! YOUR EYES SPEAK
OF OTHER WORLDS...
YOUR LIPS...BECKON---



BUT AS PAUL BENT TO TOUCH THOSE
LOVELY LIPS...HE CAME FACE TO FACE
WITH...**HORROR!**

N-NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
YOU...YOU'RE **CHANGING**...
INTO A---



HELP...
HELP!
YAAGH!



AND AT THE ARRIVAL OF MEG AND CARL...

OH, MY POOR
BROTHER...
H-HE'S---

YES, MEG, HE'S
DEAD...AND JUST BY
WHAT **MEANS**, WE'LL
NEVER KNOW!



LOOK, THE **IDOL!** SAY WHAT YOU WILL,
BUT **VOODOO MAGIC** MADE PAUL BRING
IT BACK...HERE TO THE CEMETERY...TO
SUFFER FINAL PUNISHMENT
FOR HIS CRIME!



IT...IT'S OVER
NOW! P--PLEASE--
TAKE ME HOME,
DARLING!

SURE, HONEY... IT'S
DAYBREAK NOW! AND
WE HAVE NOTHING
MORE TO
FEAR!

THE GHOST'S REVENGE!

WHEN A LIVING MORTAL AND A DEPARTED SPIRIT ENTER INTO A BARGAIN, THERE CAN BE NO BACKING OUT... BUT **CURLY ADAMS** THOUGHT OTHERWISE! HE HAD ALL THE ANGLES FIGURED... HE WAS A KILLER, COOL AND CALCULATING... AND HE WAS BRAZENLY CONFIDENT THAT HE COULD EASILY ESCAPE... **THE GHOST'S REVENGE!**



LATE ONE NIGHT, ALONG A MAIN HIGHWAY...

IT'S NO USE, ADAMS... WE'LL NEVER GET AWAY FROM THEM COPPERS!

RELAX... I KNOW A TURN-OFF UP AHEAD WHERE WE'LL DITCH 'EM GOOD!



MOMENTS LATER... MAYBE NOW YOU'LL BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT I'VE ALWAYS GOT AN ANGLE! WE'LL BE LEAVIN' THE CAR IN A COUPLA MINUTES... I WANNA SHOW YOU SOMETHIN'!





TAKING A NARROW DIRT PATH, ADAMS LED THE WAY TO THE EDGE OF A CLEARING---

THERE IT IS, GAINES... **THE PERFECT HIDE-OUT!** I SPOTTED THIS PLACE ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO AND FIGURED IT WOULD COME IN HANDY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY! WE'LL HOLE UP HERE TILL THINGS COOL OFF!

I---I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF IT, ADAMS! IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!



MAYBE YOU'D LIKE A NICE COZY **JAIL** INSTEAD? REMEMBER, GAINES ---WE'RE WANTED FOR ARMED ROBBERY! GUYS ON THE LAM CAN'T BE FUSSY! NOW WHAT IS IT GONNA BE? ARE YOU WITH ME, OR DO WE GO IT SEPARATE?

N---NO---I'D NEVER MAKE IT ON MY OWN! I'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY!



NOW YOU'RE TALKIN' SENSE! BESIDES, HAVE I SLIPPED UP YET? DON'T I ALWAYS HAVE AN ANGLE?

YEAH, YOU'RE **SMART**, ADAMS--- I'LL STICK!

A SHORT WHILE LATER, INSIDE THE OLD HOUSE---



AS SOON AS I GET THIS FIRE GOING WE'LL FEEL---HEY, WHAT'S EATIN' YOU?

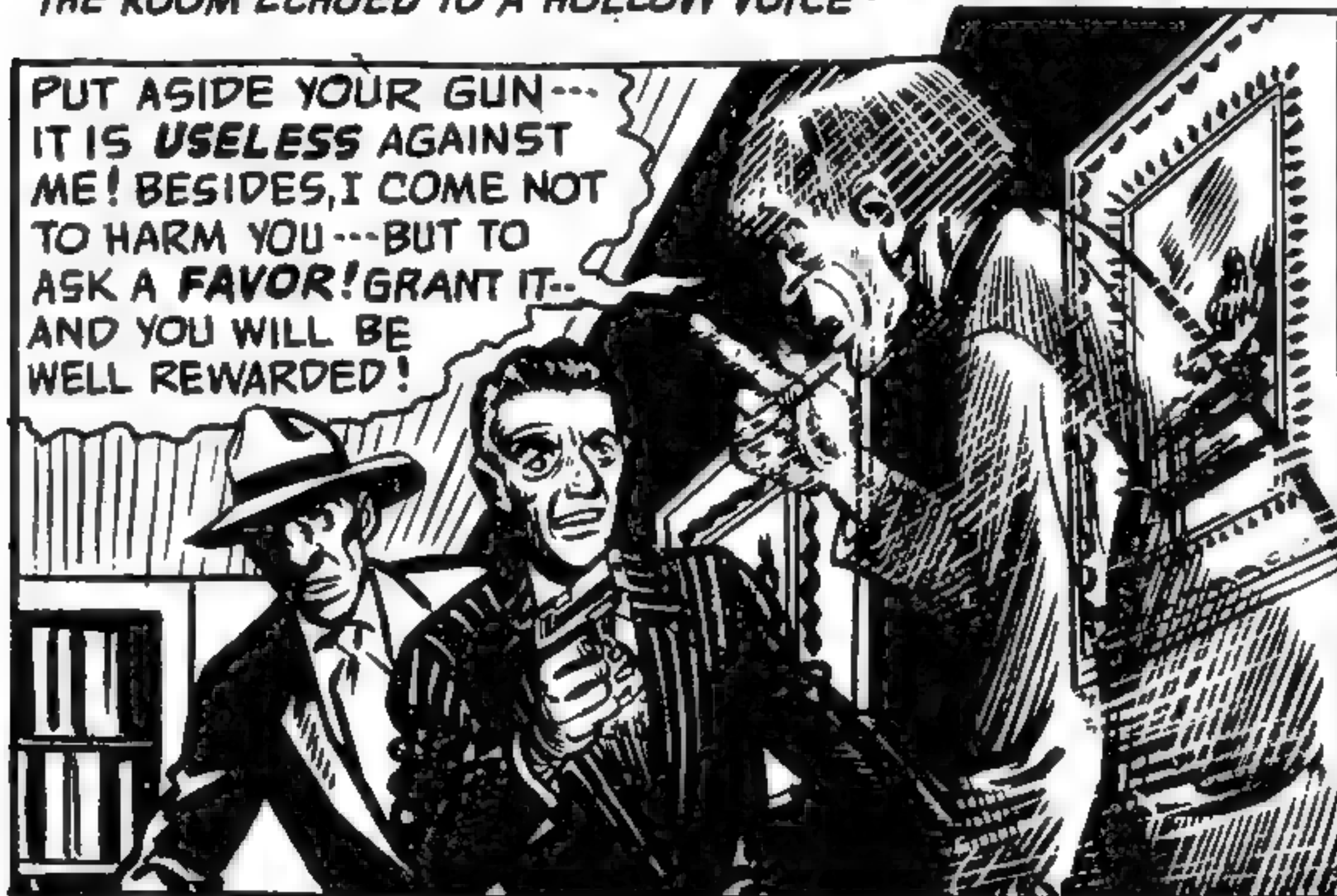
TH---THAT **SMOKE** ---OVER THERE IN THE CORNER!



LOOK! SOME-THIN'S TAKIN' **SHAPE!**

STEP ASIDE, BUSTER ---WHATEVER IT IS, I'M GONNA **BLAST** IT!

WITH STUNNING SPEED, THE WIPS OF SMOKE MATERIALIZED INTO A SPECTRAL FORM! THE FLESHLESS LIPS MOVED, AND THE ROOM ECHOED TO A HOLLOW VOICE---



PUT ASIDE YOUR GUN--- IT IS **USELESS** AGAINST ME! BESIDES, I COME NOT TO HARM YOU---BUT TO ASK A **FAVOR!** GRANT IT-- AND YOU WILL BE WELL REWARDED!



DON'T DO IT, ADAMS! IT'S SOME KIND OF---

SHUT UP, AND LET THE CREEP TALK! I'M ALWAYS READY TO LISTEN TO A **PROPOSITION** ---AS LONG AS THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT FOR **CURLY ADAMS!**

MY NAME IS **ORVILLE WILKES**! SIX YEARS AGO I WAS **MURDERED** IN THIS HOUSE, POISONED BY MY WIFE FOR MY INSURANCE MONEY! FOR SIX LONG YEARS MY SPIRIT HAS WANDERED RESTLESSLY, WHILE SHE LIVES ON---ENJOYING HER ILL-GOTTEN GAINS! UNTIL SHE **PAYS** FOR HER CRIME, I CAN NEVER FIND ETERNAL PEACE!



SHE MUST'VE BEEN PLENTY SMART TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER!

YES, SHE WAS CLEVER---AND EXTREMELY PATIENT! SHE POISONED ME SO SLOWLY THAT EVEN THE DOCTORS WERE MISLED! SHE EVEN FOOLED ME, BUT AT THE VERY END I DISCOVERED HER TREACHERY!



IN MY PRESENT FORM, I CANNOT BRING MY WIFE TO JUSTICE! THAT IS WHY I NEED THE HELP OF A **MORTAL**! GO TO THE POLICE---TELL THEM ABOUT MY MURDER AND DEMAND THAT THE CASE BE RE-OPENED! ONCE MY WIFE IS FACED WITH THIS NEW CHARGE, SHE WILL BREAK DOWN AND CONFESS---OF THAT I AM CERTAIN!

OKAY---SUPPOSE I DO? WHAT'S IN IT FOR **ME**?



BEHIND THIS PANEL IS \$5,000! I HID IT THERE A FEW DAYS BEFORE MY DEATH, KNOWING THAT IT WOULDN'T FALL INTO **HER** HANDS! THE MONEY IS YOURS---IF YOU **PROMISE** TO DO AS I ASKED!

IF THE DOUGH IS THERE LIKE YOU SAY, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A **DEAL**!



MOMENTS LATER, WHEN ADAMS TORE AWAY THE THIN PANELING---

IT'S HERE ALL RIGHT--**FIVE THOUSAND BUCKS!**

THEN YOU **WILL** DO AS I SAY---YOU MUST! WASTE NO TIME---TAKE THE SOUTH ROAD FROM HERE TO THE TOWN CALLED CLARKSVILLE! THAT IS WHERE **SHE** LIVES! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO---**FAREWELL!**



LOOK, GAINES---HE'S DOIN' A **REAL** FADE-OUT! HOW ABOUT THAT?

CUT THE COMEDY; ADAMS---WHAT ABOUT THAT PROMISE YOU MADE HIM? YOU KNOW **WE** CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE!



THAT WAS ONLY A **STALL**, STUPID! OF COURSE I'M NOT GOING TO THE POLICE, BUT THERE'S NO REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T VISIT THAT **SPOOK'S WIFE!**

WHAT?





LOOK, PINHEAD, DON'T YOU SEE THE ANGLE? WE'VE GOT THAT DAME ON A **SPOT!** WE CAN USE HER PLACE FOR A HIDE-OUT---AND GET HER TO HELP US OUT OF THE COUNTRY!

I'M NOT CROSSIN' UP ANY SPOOK! I'M STEPPING OUT!



SURE, PAL, YOU'RE STEPPING OUT---**FOR GOOD!**

OH--HH!

THUD!



STONE COLD **DEAD**...BUT THAT'S JUST AS WELL! I'VE GOT THE FIVE G'S FOR MYSELF, AND I'LL DO A LOT BETTER ON MY OWN! NOW TO GET TO CLARKSVILLE AND A LITTLE CHAT WITH **MRS. ORVILLE WILKES!**



ARRIVING IN CLARKSVILLE, ADAMS CHECKED THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY! A SHORT WHILE LATER---

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, **WE'RE** GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

THAT'S RIGHT, BABY... BUT YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF ME FROM NOW ON! I'M COMING IN!



IF YOU'RE THINKING OF CALLING THE POLICE, GO AHEAD! THEY'D BE INTERESTED IN KNOWIN' HOW YOUR HUSBAND WAS **POISONED!**

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



DON'T CON **ME**, SISTER! YOU POISONED YOUR HUSBAND FOR HIS DOUGH---IN NICE, EASY STAGES! YOU DID IT IN THE OLD HOUSE OUTSIDE OF TOWN, ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO! THAT'S RIGHT, AIN'T IT---OR DO YOU WANT **MORE** DETAILS?



WH-WHO ARE YOU? H-HOW DO YOU KNOW THESE THINGS?

THAT'S **MY** LITTLE SECRET, BUT DON'T LET THAT SCARE YOU! I WON'T SPILL TO THE COPS---PROVIDIN' YOU **COOPERATE!**





YOU DIRTY, SNEAKIN' WITCH! POISON ME, EH? WELL, YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

WAIT! YOU MUSTN'T ---OH--HH!



Y---YOU'VE GOTTA **HELP** ME! MY THROAT'S BURNIN' LIKE FIRE! I---I DON'T WANT TO DIE! **HELP** ME!

YOU WILL **DIE**, ADAMS, BUT **NOT** FROM THE WINE! THERE WAS NO POISON IN YOUR **DRINK**---ONLY THE POISON IN YOUR EVIL **BRAIN**!



ALL I DID WAS **TELL** YOU THAT KARIN HAD POISONED YOU, KNOWING YOUR VIOLENT NATURE WOULD DRIVE YOU INTO A FRENZY! YOU'VE **KILLED** HER, ADAMS, AND SO YOU HAVE AVENGED MY MURDER---BUT YOU WILL PAY FOR IT WITH YOUR OWN LIFE!

N-NO! I'VE BEEN TRICKED!



LISTEN---FOOTSTEPS ON THE STAIRS! IT'S THE **POLICE**, ADAMS ---THEY'VE HEARD THE SHOTS! WHEN THEY ARRIVE I WILL BE GONE! I CAN NOW REST IN ETERNAL PEACE!

WAIT! COME BACK ---COME BACK!



MOMENTS LATER, WHEN THE POLICE BURST IN---

SHE'S DEAD, ALL RIGHT! BOOK HIM ---FOR MURDER!



HE MADE ME DO IT! IT WAS THE **GHOST**! HE **TRICKED** ME! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME---YOU'VE GOT TO **BELIEVE** ME!

SURE, BUSTER! JUST TELL IT TO THE JURY!

THE WITCH DOCTOR PRESSING PINS INTO THE WAXEN IMAGE OF A TRIBAL ENEMY...AN ANGRY MOB BURNING A DUMMY IN EFFIGY...BOTH ACTS ATTEST MAN'S INBORN FEAR OF THINGS WHICH LOOK **TOO MUCH ALIVE!** BUT SOMETIMES EVIL STALKS THE EARTH MASKED IN INNOCENCE! WOULD AUDIENCES EVERYWHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE **LAUGHED**...HAD THEY KNOWN THE FRIGHTFUL TRUTH ABOUT...

THE UGLY DUMMY NAMED **OSWALD FOOP!**



IN THE STAR'S DRESSING ROOM AT THE PALACE THEATER...

HE'S **DEAD** ALL RIGHT...**STRANGLER** BY SOME-BODY WITH SMALL, BUT IN-CREDIBLY POWERFUL HANDS! AND LOOK...THERE ARE **TEETH MARKS** ON THE CORPSE! THE KILLER MUST'VE BEEN A **FIEND!**

I DON'T GET IT, MIKE...THERE'S NOT A WINDOW IN THIS ROOM, AND THE DOOR WAS LOCKED FROM THE **INSIDE** WHEN WE BUSTED IN! HOW ON EARTH DID THE MURDER-ER **ESCAPE?**

JUST WAIT'LL THE NEWSPAPERS GET HOLD OF **THIS** YARN...**"HORRIBLE MURDER INSIDE LOCKED ROOM AT PALACE...POLICE FIND NO CLUES...NO WITNESSES!"**

HOW ABOUT THIS **DUMMY...**

IF IT COULD ONLY **TALK!** YOU KNOW...IT LOOKS **ALIVE** ENOUGH AT THAT TO HAVE ACTUALLY **SEEN** WHAT HAPPENED!

HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS BAFFLING CRIME? IT IS A STRANGE AND EERIE TALE, BEGINNING MONTHS BEFORE...IN THE OFFICE OF A BROADWAY BOOK-ING AGENT...

IT'S NO USE, SAM! YOU'RE A FINE VENTRILOQUIST, BUT PEOPLE ARE FED UP WITH THAT STALE ACT AND BEAT-UP DUMMY OF YOURS! GET SOMETHING **DIFFERENT... SOMETHING NOVEL!**

BUT NEW DUMMIES COST **MONEY...** AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I DON'T **HAVE!**



SORLORN, THE YOUNG ACTOR WANDERED AIM-
LESSLY ACROSS THE DRAB AND FROSTY CITY---

WHY DON'T I FACE IT---I'M A **FLOP!**
ME AND THIS WORN-OUT PUPPET HAVE
NEVER GOTTEN ANYWHERE...SO WHY
NOT GET **RID** OF IT?



AS HE WANDERED DISCONSOLATELY, AN OBJECT IN A FASHION-
ABLE SHOP WINDOW CAUGHT HIS EYE---SOMETHING DESTINED
TO CHANGE HIS LIFE---AND THE LIVES OF MANY---

THAT MARIONETTE---IT'S SO **LIFELIKE!**
BUT THAT MENACING EXPRESSION ON
ITS FACE---AND THOSE PAINTED
EYES---SO **HYPNOTIC**---



GOOD GRAVY---I FELT
MYSELF FALLING UNDER
SOME KIND OF---**SPELL!**
BUT THAT THING---IT'D
MAKE A VENTRILO-
QUIST'S DUMMY THAT'S
OUT OF THIS WORLD!
WHY, IF I HAD SOMETHING
LIKE **THAT**, MAYBE---! WELL,
WHAT'S THE HARM IN FINDING
OUT WHAT
IT
COSTS?

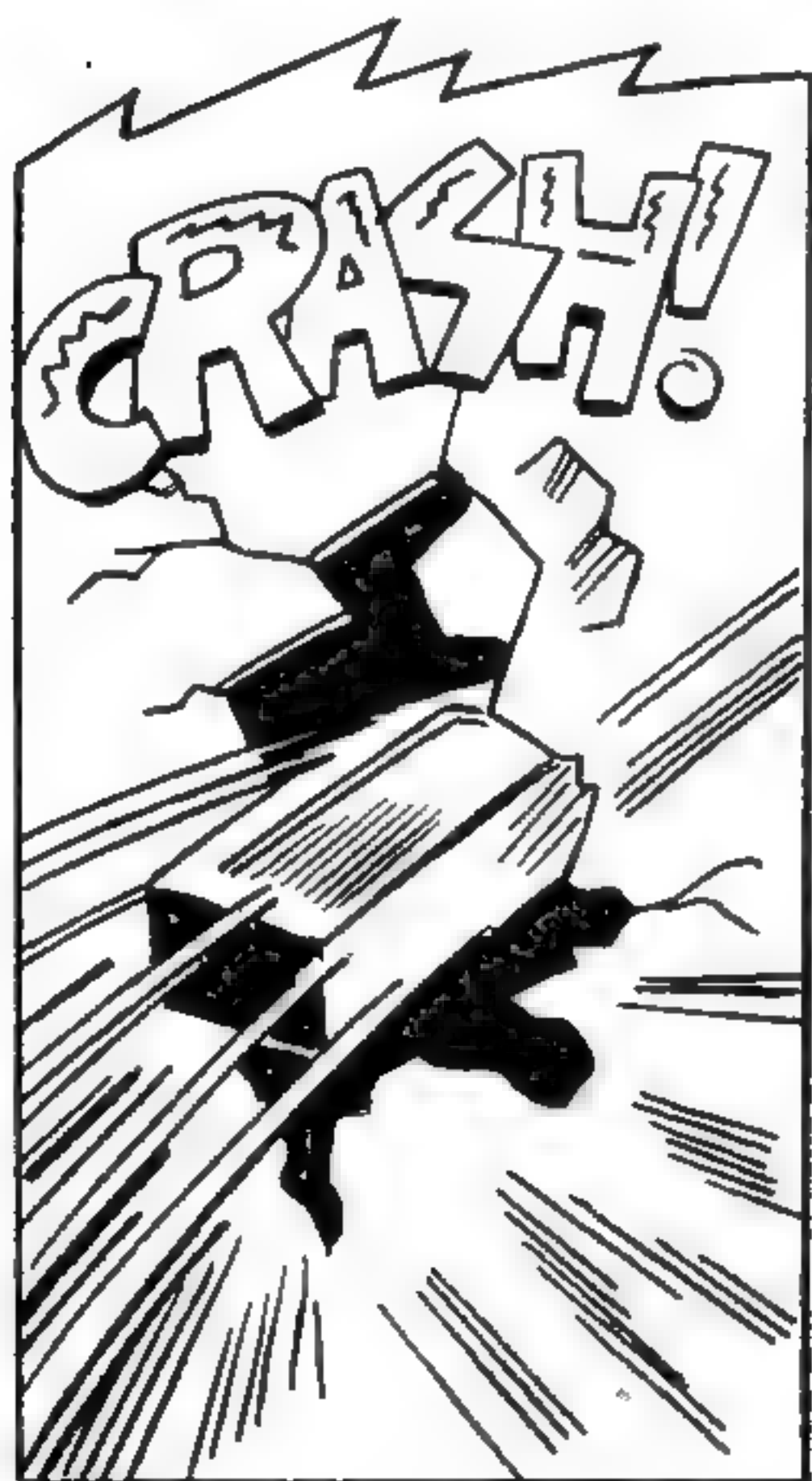


YES, **SIR!** IT IS EXTRAORDINARY---
STRAIGHT FROM THE TOMB OF THE
GREAT EGYPTIAN QUEEN **RHAMEN**
ISHTAR---AND A **STEAL** AT ONLY
\$5,000! YOU SEE, IT
WAS THE PROPERTY
OF THE **ROYAL**
SORCERER---AND
THERE'S A STRANGE
STORY ABOUT
IT---

YEAH, I KNOW---
IT'S **HAUNTED**,
OR SOME NON-
SENSE LIKE
THAT! BUT THE
THING THAT'S
STOPPING **ME** IS THE
PRICE---SO YOU CAN PUT
IT RIGHT BACK IN THE
WINDOW,
FRIEND!



BUT SAM CATLETT COULD
NOT LEAVE WITHOUT GAZING
AT THE FASCINATING PUP-
PET ONCE MORE! THE STRANGE-
LY STARING EYES HAUNTED
HIM---FILLED HIM WITH AN
UNBEARABLE LONGING TO
POSSESS IT! AND SO,
THAT WINTRY NIGHT---



**STOP...OR I'LL SHOOT TO
KILL!**

I'VE GOT TO SHAKE
THAT GUY---I'VE
GOT TO!



LATER, SAFE IN HIS SHABBY HOTEL ROOM---

I'LL PAY FOR THIS THING JUST AS SOON
AS I CAN AFFORD IT---BUT MEANWHILE,
I'LL HAVE TO ALTER IT SO I CAN USE IT
IN MY ACT! FUNNY WHAT IMAGINATION WILL
DO---IT FEELS ALMOST---**WARM!** OH,
WELL---BETTER START BY HOLLOWING

CUT THE BACK FOR A
HAND-
HOLD---



BUT AS HE APPLIED THE KNIFE TO THE DUMMY'S BACK---



WHAT THE...IT MOVED!

MY KNIFE MUST'VE SLIPPED AND WHIRLED THE PUPPET AROUND ---BECAUSE ITS **TEETH** SANK INTO MY HAND! BETTER **WATCH** YOU, BABY!



FINISHING THE JOB OF REVAMPING THE DUMMY FOR THEATRICAL USE---

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PUT A TUXEDO ON THIS BABY AND I'M SET! IT'S STRANGE THOUGH---NO MATTER **HOW** I PAINT THE FACE, I CAN'T GET RID OF THAT **EVIL LEER!**



NEXT DAY---

IT'S GREAT---**GREAT!** I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'LL PUT YOUR ACT OVER---BUT I'M GONNA BOOK YOU INTO THE **CLUB MOCAMBO** AND SEE! BUT SAY--- HE'S KIND OF A **MEAN**-LOOKING CRITTER, ISN'T HE? WHAT DO YOU CALL HIM?

MEET MY NEW PARTNER---**OSWALD FOOP!**



OPENING NIGHT AT THE CLUB MOCAMBO---AND A **SMASH SUCCESS!**



I CAN'T SEEM TO TEAR MY EYES AWAY FROM THAT DUMMY!

HA HA HA HA

IT'S VERY---QUEER! I COULD ALMOST SWEAR THAT THING'S... **ALIVE!**

---AND THEN YOU **HIT** HIM? BUT WHY, **OSWALD** --- **WHY?**

NOBODY CAN CALL **ME** A BLOCK-HEAD AND GET AWAY WITH IT!

SUCCESS FOLLOWED SUCCESS ---BRINGING WEALTH AND FAME! SOON SAM CATLETT WAS RENOWNED AS **AMERICA'S GREATEST VENTRILOQUIST**---ABLY ABETTED BY THE INCREDIBLE PUPPET, **OSWALD FOOP!**

EXTRA
AMERICA'S GREA VENTRILOQUIST
SUCCESS STARRING **WILL**

GREAT!

HA HURRA HA!

BRANO!

Then...AS SAM CELEBRATED THE SIGNING OF HIS LATEST CONTRACT---

TWELVE WEEKS AT THE **PALACE**---AND ALL BECAUSE OF OSWALD! TO ME HE'S NOT JUST A BLOCK OF WOOD, BUT A **PARTNER**---TO WHOM I CAN **GIVE**---AS IF HE REALLY **WERE** ALIVE! AND SO I PROPOSE A TOAST TO **YOU**, SWEETHEART---WHO STUCK BY ME THROUGH THICK AND THIN---AND TO **OSWALD FOOP**---**LONG MAY HE LIVE!**

IT'S RATHER SILLY, DEAR--- BUT ANYTHING YOU SAY!

CLAIR! WHAT'S THE **MATTER**---YOU'RE AS WHITE AS A SHEET!

IT---ITS **EYES! THEY**---**MOVED!**

EASY, HONEY---IT'S JUST THAT YOU'VE BEEN UNDER A STRAIN LATELY!

BUT I TELL YOU THEY **DID** MOVE! SAM, I---I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE, BUT THAT HORRIBLE THING **TERRIFIES** ME! SOMEHOW I KNOW THAT IT'S **NOT** JUST ORDINARY WOOD! **DESTROY IT**---**BEFORE IT DESTROYS YOU!**

SAM SUCCEEDED IN CALMING HIS DISTRAUGHT SWEETHEART---AND SOON SHRUGGED OFF HER FANCIFUL SUSPICIONS! BUT A WEEK LATER, WHEN HE OPENED AT THE PALACE---

YOU KNOW, OSWALD---SOMETIMES I WONDER ABOUT YOU! WHAT'S ON THAT MIND OF YOURS? WHAT DO YOU **DREAM** ABOUT?

DREAM? WHAT ELSE BUT OF THE SANDS OF THE DESERT---THE GLORY THAT WAS ANCIENT EGYPT---THE POWER THAT MY MASTER WIELDED, AND IMPLANTED WITHIN MY PUPPET'S BODY!

HUH? I DIDN'T PUT THOSE WORDS IN ITS MOUTH! GREAT SCOTT---IT **SPOKE WITH-OUT ME!**

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO CATLETT? IF THAT WAS A GAG---I DON'T GET IT!

YEAH---WHAT'S ALL THIS MALARKY ABOUT EGYPT?

OH---S-SO YOUR MASTER DISHED OUT SOME SPECIAL P-POWERS TO YOU, EH? HEH-HEH---GUESS ONE OF THEM WAS HOW TO **SPOIL A GOOD ACT!**

GLOSSING OVER HIS HARROWING EXPERIENCE WITH THE LAME WISECRACK, SAM HURRIED THROUGH TO THE END OF HIS PERFORMANCE! THEN, RUSHING SWIFTLY TO HIS DRESSING ROOM---

JENSEN---PUT OSWALD **AWAY!** I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE FOR A BREATH OF AIR---I'VE JUST BEEN THROUGH AN **ORDEAL!**

VERY WELL, SIR!

"VERY GOOD, SIR!" AND "IM-MEDIATELY, SIR!" IT'S **DIS-GUSTING**...A GENTLEMAN'S GENTLEMAN LIKE **ME** PLAYING NURSEMAID TO A **SILLY PIECE OF WOOD!** I'D LIKE TO SMASH ITS ABSURD FACE IN!



AS THE VALET TURNED TO TIDY THE ROOM...

I HAVE BORNE---**ENOUGH!** INFIDELS SNATCHED ME FROM A ROYAL TOMB---A MERE BUFFOON HAS MARRED MY BODY---MY VERY FACE HAS BEEN ALTERED TO THAT OF A CLOWN! BUT NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO **STRIKE**...TO THROW OFF THE YOKE WHICH HAS MADE ME A TOY TO BE LAUGHED AT BY FOOLS!



N-NO! IT'S NOT...POSSIBLE! HELP... **HELP!**



THUS WAS THE FIENDISH MURDER COMMITTED WHICH SO BAFFLED THE POLICE! WHEN SAM CATLETT WAS QUESTIONED---

LOOK, HE WAS **YOUR** VALET ---CAN'T YOU GIVE US ANY HELP?

I---I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! I LEFT JENSEN HERE JUST A WHILE AGO, TELLING HIM TO PUT AWAY THE PUPPET--- AND NOW---



THAT AWFUL THING---STARING SO EVILLY---IT'S **HORRIBLE!**...**GOOD HEAVENS!**...IS THAT **BLOOD** ON ITS HANDS?

CLAIR! WHAT'S **WRONG?** YOU'RE DEATHLY PALE!



THAT GHASTLY FEAR WRITTEN ALL OVER YOU ---WHAT IS IT? IF YOU'VE A CLUE TO THIS HORRIBLE BUSINESS---FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, SPEAK UP!

CLUE? IF I TOLD YOU ---YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE---**BEFORE I LOSE MY MIND!**

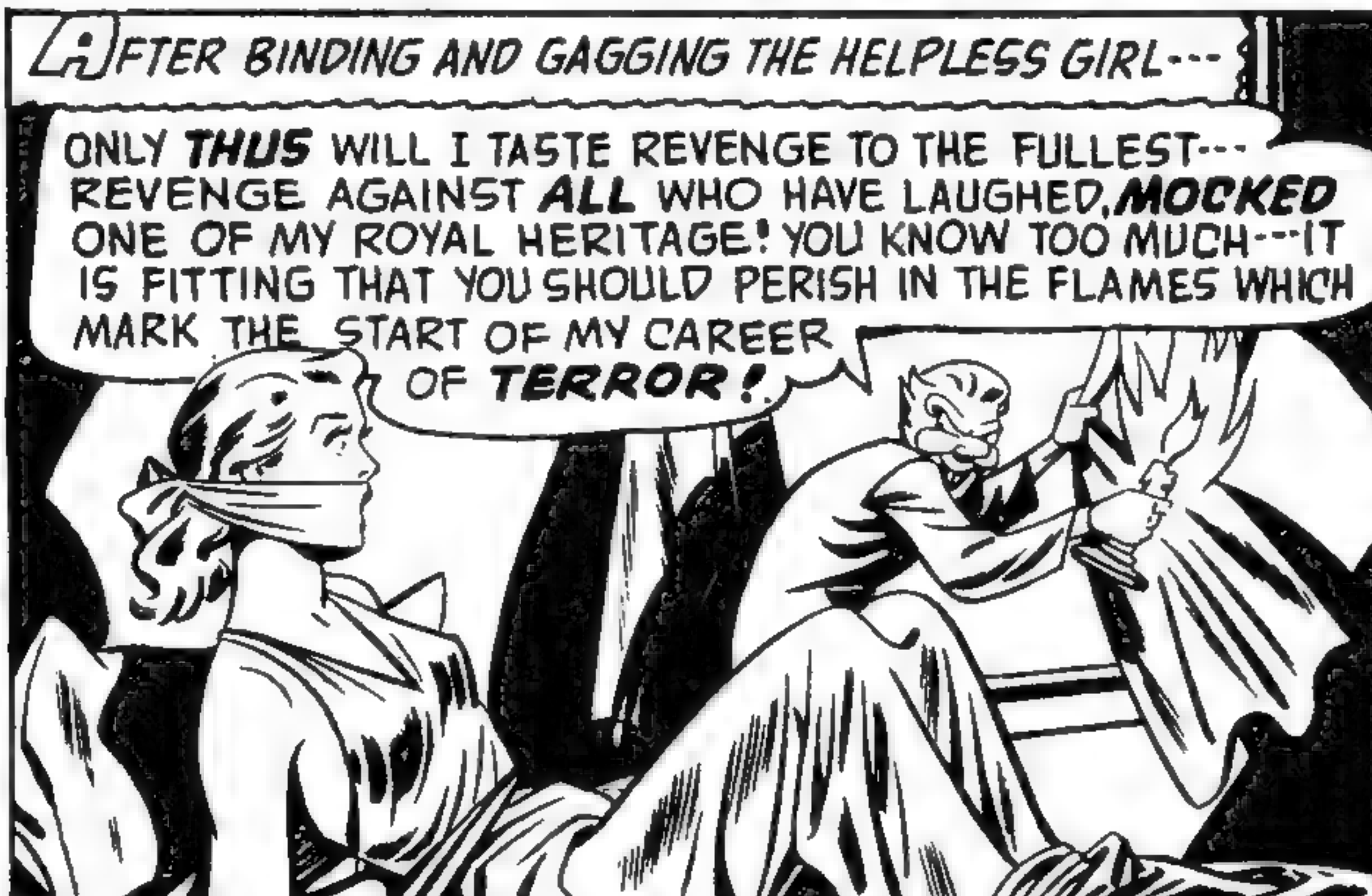
I DON'T GET IT! DO YOU THINK SHE ACTUALLY --- **KNEW** SOMETHING?

YOU KNOW HOW **WOMEN** ARE---JUST NERVES! BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE--- I'LL DROP IN ON HER LATER AND FIND OUT IF SHE REALLY **DID** SEE SOMETHING!

AND AS THE MEN DISCUSSED THE MURDER...UNKNOWN TO THEM...**THE MURDERER WAS LISTENING!**

THE GIRL--- **SUSPECTS**...PERHAPS SHE **KNOWS!** THEREFORE SHE MUST **DIE---TONIGHT!**





THANK GOODNESS I GOT HERE IN TIME! I'LL GET HER OUT OF HERE---AND THEN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!



IN SAM'S APARTMENT---

DON'T TELL ME TO BE REASONABLE, SAM--- YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S REFUSING TO FACE **FACTS!** YOU CAN **CALL** IT WOOD---BUT IT'S **ALIVE**---AND YOU MUST HAVE SEEN **SOME** SIGNS OF IT!



WELL, IF I **HAVE**, IT'S BECAUSE **YOU** PUT THE IDEA IN MY HEAD! I TELL YOU OSWALD **COULDN'T** HAVE BEEN IN YOUR ROOM TONIGHT---BECAUSE I BROUGHT HIM HOME WITH ME---AND HE'S **STILL** HERE! C'MON---SEE FOR YOURSELF---HE **COULDN'T** HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF A **CLOSED TRUNK!**



IN THE NEXT ROOM---

YOU---YOU SAID THE TRUNK WAS **CLOSED**--- BUT IT'S **NOT!**

WELL, WHAT OF IT? MAYBE MY MEMORY'S PLAYING TRICKS! BE-SIDES, THE DUMMY'S **STILL THERE**---AS



SAM, YOU **CAN'T** BE THAT MUCH OF A FOOL! THAT THING TRIED TO **KILL** ME TONIGHT! IT'S **EVIL**, BENT ON **MURDER!**



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, HONEY---USE YOUR HEAD! HOW COULD A STUPID, IDIOTIC WOOD-EN DOLL DO WHAT YOU'VE SAID? IT'S JUST A **DEAD, DOLTISH DUMMY** WITHOUT A BRAIN IN ITS UGLY, PAINTED **NOODLE!**



IN THE NEXT AWFUL MOMENT---



SAM! LOOK!!

YE GODS! IT'S... TRUE! THE THING'S ALIVE!

WITH AN INHUMAN LEAP---



YOUR WORDS SHALL BE REPAID WITH--- **DEATH!**

OH-HH!

HE'S **HELPLESS**---AT MY **MERCY!** ONCE HE SCARRED MY BODY WITH A **KNIFE**---SO **NOW**---



I---I'VE GOT TO **STOP** HIM! AND ---**THIS**---IS MY ONLY CHANCE!



The WEIRD WAGER

HOW TERRIFIED WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU WERE SNATCHED UP INTO THE DREAD **UNKNOWN**... TO LEARN THAT YOU WERE THE SUBJECT OF A WEIRD WAGER BETWEEN **DEATH** AND **THE DEVIL**? FAR FETCHED, YOU THINK? THEN READ THE STRANGE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED TO ONE YOUNG AMERICAN COUPLE...AND LEARN THE MEANING OF **SUPERNATURAL DREAD!**



SOMEWHERE IN THE NETHERWORLD...

THEN IT'S A WAGER, SATAN... THAT HUMANS FEAR **ME** MORE THAN THEY DO **YOU!**

IT'S A WAGER, **DEATH!** IF YOU WIN, I CAN'T CLAIM ANY OF YOUR VICTIMS FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR...BUT IF I WIN, I CLAIM THE SOULS OF **ALL** THE DEAD FOR A YEAR!

AGREED! WE WILL DESCEND TO EARTH TO SELECT A HUMAN...AND THEN TAKE TURNS PORTRAYING THE TERRORS THAT EACH OF US HOLDS IN STORE FOR HIM! HE WILL THEN BE GIVEN THE CHOICE OF GOING WITH EITHER YOU OR ME...AND THE ONE WHO IS CHOSEN **LOSES** THE BET, BECAUSE IT MEANS THE MORTAL FEARS THE **OTHER** ONE MORE!

HA-HA...GOOD! LET US DESCEND TO PICK OUR VICTIM **NOW!**







THERE *IS* A LIFE AFTER DEATH FOR HUMANITY---BUT NOT FOR DEATH'S **SPECIAL** VICTIMS! AS SOON AS I TOUCH **YOU**, YOUR FLESH WILL RETURN TO DUST, YOUR BODIES CRUMPLE, WHILE YOUR SPIRITS WILL BE BANISHED TO THE ETERNAL BLACK VOID OF UTTER **NOTHINGNESS**! CLING TO EACH OTHER WHILE YOU CAN, FOR THIS IS **YOUR LAST MOMENT**!



NO...NO! WE LOVE EACH OTHER TOO MUCH ---YOU **CAN'T** DO THAT!

DON'T TEAR US APART---
DON'T!



IN THE NEXT MOMENT---

NO... NO!

DON'T...



WE---WE'RE BACK IN THE CAR---**ALIVE** ---JUST AS WE WERE BEFORE **DEATH** CAME!

WAS---WAS IT ALL A TERRIBLE **HALLUCINATION**?



WHILE SOMEWHERE IN THE NETHERWORLD---

HA---**THAT** IS HOW YOU TRIED TO TERRIFY THEM? WHERE WERE THE TORTURES, THE AGONIES THAT MANKIND FEARS?

YOUR TURN, SATAN!



SOON AFTERWARDS---

GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, DARLING---AND TRY TO FORGET WHAT HAPPENED!

WAIT, ALLEN---DON'T GO! SOMETHING'S BURNING INSIDE MY APARTMENT---SOMETHING WITH THE SMELL OF **SULPHUR**!



I'D BETTER GET THOSE WINDOWS OPEN---
FAST!







BUT WAIT---THERE IS YET **MORE!**
THERE ARE THOSE LOST SOULS WHO
ARE DOOMED TO PUSH THAT MIGHTY
BOULDER FOR ALL ETERNITY! THEY
HAVE BEEN PROMISED RELEASE IF
THEY REACH THE TOP, BUT THEIR
LABORS ARE IN VAIN---FOR THE
BOULDER ALWAYS FALLS JUST
BEFORE THEY REACH THEIR
GOAL!

IT---IT'S **AWFUL**
--- THERE WERE
WOMEN SUFFERING
THERE, AS WELL
AS MEN!

YES---ON EARTH MANY OF
THEM WERE MARRIED, OR
PLEGGED TO EACH OTHER--
AND NOW THEY MEET MY
ETERNAL TORTURES TO-
GETHER!



BUT NOW---
**RETURN---
RETURN TO
EARTH---**
WHERE YOU
WILL DECIDE
YOUR OWN
FATE!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT---

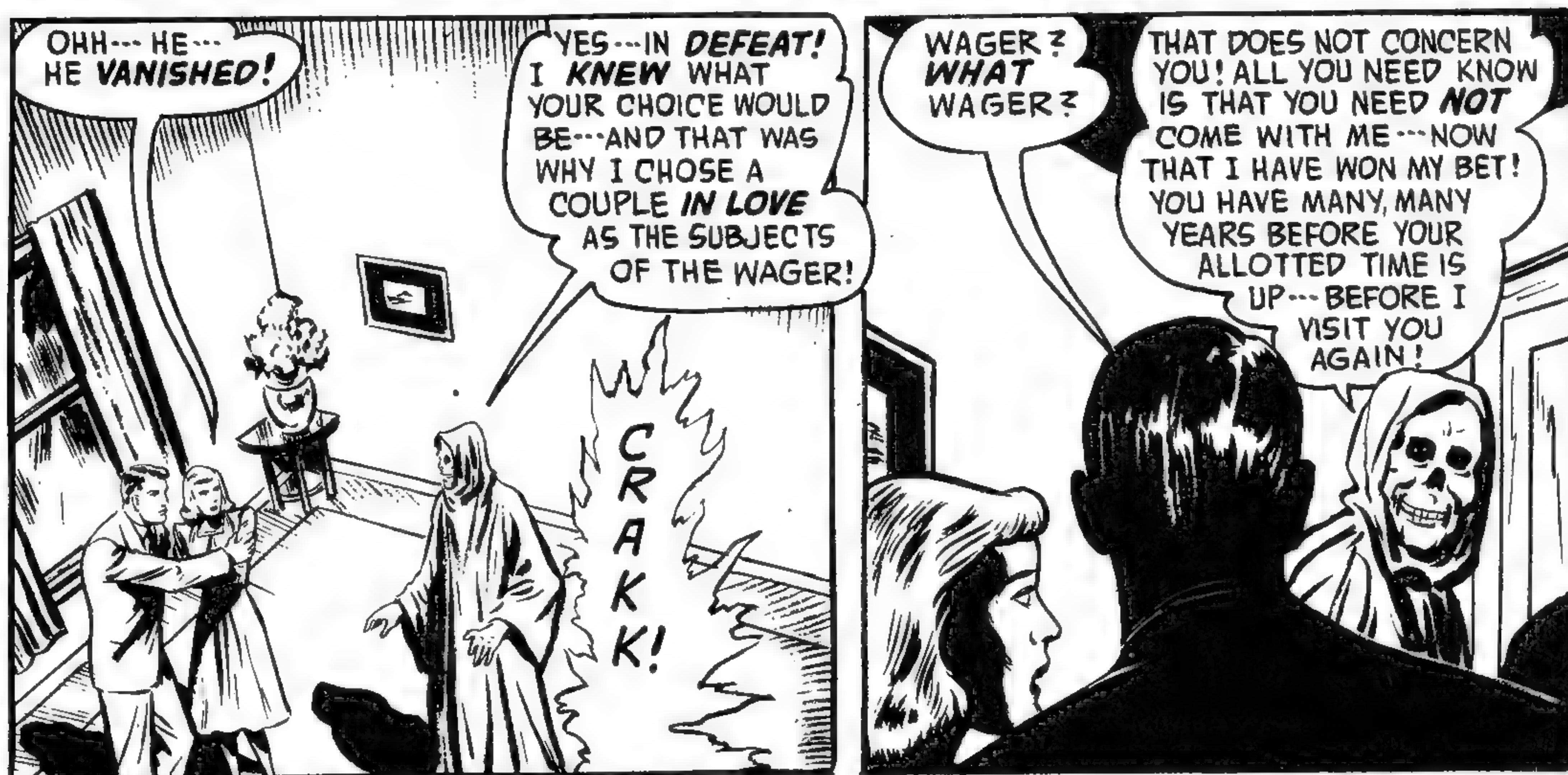
WE'RE---BACK!
BUT **LOOK!**
WON'T WE
EVER BE
FREE OF
THEM?

I DON'T KNOW,
HONEY---BUT I'VE
GOT A FEELING
THIS IS THE
SHOWDOWN!



YES, THIS IS THE MOMENT WHEN
YOU CHOOSE YOUR FATE! I OFFER
YOU ETERNAL NOTHINGNESS AND
NON-EXISTENCE---AND YOU CAN
EITHER CHOOSE TO COME
WITH ME---

---OR WITH **ME**,
WHO OFFERS YOU
ETERNAL PAIN AND
TORTURE! WHICH DO
YOU CHOOSE?
**DECIDE---
QUICKLY!**



A HEX ON MY BROTHER!



IN A LONELY PENNSYLVANIA FARMHOUSE...

THERE HE IS, COMBIN' OUT HIS **BEARD** AG'IN! HOW I HATE HIM-- AN' THAT BEARD O' HIS HE LOVES SO MUCH!

WHY YOU POKIN' AROUND AT THE DOOR, MARTHA? COME ON IN AN' STOP PUSSYFOOTIN' AROUND! WHAT DO Y' WANT?



I WANT MY **MONEY**, EB! YOU SOLD EVERY HOG ON THE FARM YESTERDAY, AN' YOU AIN'T GIVE ME MY SHARE YET! I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE MY **HALF-BROTHER**! YOU BEEN **CHEATIN'** ME TOO LONG!

YOU AIN'T GOT NO MONEY COMIN'! NOW **GIT BACK TO YOUR WORK!**





THIS FARM IS HALF MINE, EB! YOU CAIN'T...

THERE'S NOTHIN' I CAIN'T DO! MEBBE *THIS*'LL LEARN YA TO OBEY ME!



DON'T TRY FIGHTIN' BACK, YOU LITTLE WILDCAT! YOU'D BETTER LEARN THAT I'M THE ONE WHO OWNS THIS PLACE!

YOU... YOU... LEMME GO, EB... I CAIN'T BREATHE...



SURE, MARTHA-- I WOULDN'T WANT NOBODY TO THINK I DON'T TREAT MY LITTLE HALF-SISTER RIGHT!



NOW GO ON ABOUT YOUR CHORES! AN' DON'T LET ME HEAR NOTHIN' 'BOUT MONEY, SEE?

I'LL GET *EVEN* WITH HIM! I'LL PAY HIM *BACK*!



SOON AFTERWARDS-- HE AIN'T GOIN' TO GET AWAY WITH BEATIN' ME NO MORE! BUT HOW AM I GONNA GIT *BACK* AT HIM? I'VE GOT IT-- I'LL GET THE *WIDOW KLOPP* TO HELP ME! SHE'S GOT DEVILISH POWERS-- SHE CAN PUT A *HEX* ON EB!



EVERYBODY KNOWS SHE'S A *WITCH*, IN LEAGUE WITH SATAN-- AN' SHE'LL DO *ANYTHIN'* FER MONEY! IF SHE CAIN'T HELP ME GIT THE MONEY--AN' *REVENGE*-- NOBODY CAN!



COME IN, MARTHY-- COME IN! SO EB'S BEEN *MISTREATIN'* YOU AG'IN, EH? HE AIN'T GIVIN' YOU WHAT'S RIGHTLY YOUR'N, AIN'T THAT IT?

Y-YES-- BUT HOW'D YOU KNOW?

IT'S MY BUSINESS TO KNOW THINGS-- ABOUT **EB**, ESPECIALLY! DIDN'T HE STEAL MOST O' MY LAND AFTER MY HUSBAND DIED-- AN' HAVEN'T I BEEN WAITIN' FER A WAY TO GIT BACK AT HIM? **YOU** CAN HELP ME, MARTHY-- BY GITTIN' ME SOMETHIN' PERSONAL THAT BELONGS TO HIM!



MAIN THING'S TO GIT ME MY MONEY-- AN' THEN HAVE SOMETHIN' HAPPEN TO HIM! COULD BE TO THAT **BEARD** OF HIS, MAYBE-- HE'S THAT PROUD OF IT---

THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! GO RIGHT HOME, AN' WHEN HE'S SLEEPIN', YOU CUT OFF A COUPLA HAIRS FROM THAT BEARD AN' BRING 'EM BACK TO ME! AN' BRING THE **LOOKIN'-GLASS** HE USES, TOO! **THAT'S ALL I NEED!**



LATER... THERE! I GUESS I'VE GOT ENOUGH O' HIS 'BEARD! NOW ALL I NEED IS THAT LOOKIN'-GLASS AN' WE'RE ALL SET!



AND SO THE STAGE WAS SET FOR TRAGEDY, AND-- **HORROR!**

WH-WHAT YOU AIM TO DO?

I AIM TO ASK THE **DEVIL** TO SIT ON THIS GLASS! I RECKON EB'LL NEVER SEE SUCH ANOTHER SIGHT AS I AIM TO MAKE HIM SEE!



WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' NOW? WHAT'S THAT **BLACK CIRCLE** FOR?

HUSH, MARTHY, AN' YOU BETTER LOOK THE OTHER WAY! WHAT I'M GOIN' TO DO AIN'T A PRETTY THING TO SEE! I LEARNED THIS HEX FROM MY GRAND-MAMMY! SHE CALLED IT-- **THE HEX OF HORROR!**



THEN, AS THE WIZENED CRONE INTONED THE ANCIENT SPELL...

SPIRITS OF THE BURNING DEEPS TWISTED IN A WRITHING MASS SCATTER DOOM ON HE WHO SLEEPS **SHOW THY MASTER, ON THE GLASS!**



THEN, AS THE ROOM FILLED WITH THE GHASTLY FUMES OF BRIMSTONE...

YOU HAVE HEARD MY CALL, GREAT ONE! LET EB KNOW YOUR TERRIBLE VISAGE! LET **THAT** BE MY REVENGE-- AND **MARTHA'S!**

THESE FUMES... THEY'RE STRANGLING ME! I'M GOIN' TO... FAINT... **OHHH!**



GIT UP, YOU MILKSOP-- NOW IT'S UP TO YOU! TAKE THE GLASS HOME AN' PUT IT WHERE HE KEEPS IT! WHEN HE LOOKS INTO IT IN THE MORNIN', YOU'LL GIT THAT MONEY-- AN' **MORE!** BUT MIND YOU DON'T LOOK INTO IT-- OR YOU'LL WISH YOU HADN'T!



AT LAST EB'S A-GONNA GIT HIS COME-UPPANCE-- I CAN HARDLY WAIT! MEBBE WHAT HE SEES IN THE MIRROR WILL MAKE HIM LOSE HIS BEARD-- WONDER WHAT IT IS? WISH I DARED TAKE A PEEK-- BUT THAT OL' WITCH WARNED ME **NOT** TO!



MOMENTS LATER, AS EB'S EVERY BREATH STIRRED TERROR WITHIN MARTHA...

THERE! THE GLASS IS IN PLACE, AN' I AIN'T LOOKED AT IT ONCE-- NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANTED TO! BUT WHAT'D THE WIDOW MEAN THAT IN THE MORNIN' I'D GIT **MORE** MONEY THAN EB OWED ME? WAIT-- MEBBE I CAN FIND THE ANSWER UP IN THE ATTIC WHERE PAPPY HID AWAY THE BOOK ON WITCHCRAFT AND HEXES JUST AFORE HE DIED!



HERE IT IS, RIGHT WHERE I FIGURED! NOW LET'S SEE---

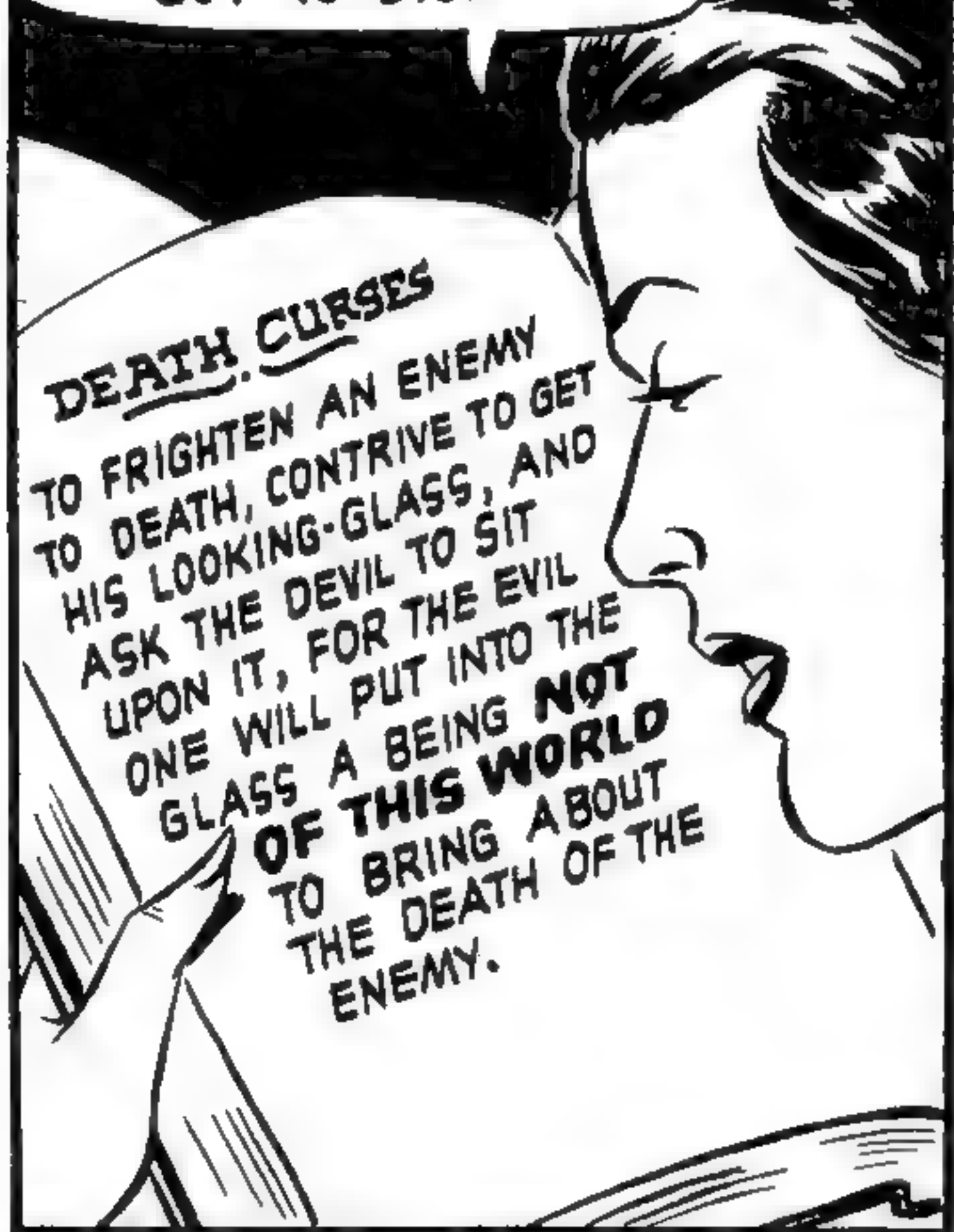


THEN, AS THE HOURS TICKED AWAY UNNOTICED...

HMM, THERE'S CURES HERE FOR FALLING HAIR, MEASLES, LUMBAGO, RHEUMATISM, BUT I DON'T SEE... WAIT! HERE IT IS-- **UNDER DEATH CURSES!**



B-- BUT I HADN'T COUNTED ON **KILLIN'** HIM! I-- I'VE GOT TO STOP---



THEN, AS THE CHIMES OF THE ANCIENT GRANDFATHER CLOCK TOLLED THROUGH THE STILL HOUSE...

FIVE O'CLOCK-- THAT MEANS EB'LL BE GITTIN' UP! AN' WHEN HE LOOKS INTO THE MIRROR-- HIM WITH HIS WEAK HEART---



THERE WAS STILL TIME TO STOP EB, TO SAVE HIM! BUT THEN CAME THE GRIM, CHILLING THOUGHT...

SAVE HIM-- **WHY?** I'LL MAKE IT A **REAL** REVENGE-- AN' LET HIM **DIE** WHEN HE GOES TO COMB OUT THAT BEARD O' HIS'N IN THE MIRROR!-- **THERE!**



JEST AS I FIGGERED-- FLAT ON HIS BACK! EB-- MY **DEAR**, DEPARTED HALF-BROTHER!



DEAD! SERVES HIM RIGHT-- AN' NOW THE FARM IS MINE, INCLUDIN' THAT SACK O' SILVER HE KEPT HIDDEN IN THE CLOSET!



ALL THE MONEY HE HAD, AN' NOW IT'S-- **MINE!** THAT'S WHAT THE WIDOW KLOPP MEANT-- SAYIN' I'D GIT **MORE'N** I EXPECTED! BUT I KEEP WONDERIN' WHAT IT WAS THAT EB SAW-- WHAT IT WAS THAT COULD'VE FRIGHTENED **HIM** TO DEATH!



THEN, AS MARTHA LOOKED AT HER DEAD BROTHER WITH FIERCE JOY-- SUDDENLY SHE RECALLED THE LONG FORGOTTEN WORDS OF HER FATHER...

REMEMBER, DAUGHTER-- THOSE WHO INVOKE THE DEVIL'S HELP WILL HAVE TO **PAY HIM** WHEN THE TIME COMES!

NO, NO-- I'M NOT GONNA THINK O' THAT! I-- I'LL THINK O' SOMETHIN' **ELSE**-- LIKE WHAT COULDA BEEN IN THAT MIRROR!



THEN, AS CURIOSITY BEGAN TO BURN FIERCELY AT HER WILL POWER...

I AIN'T SCARED O' NOTHIN'-- SO WHY **SHOULDN'T** I TAKE A LOOK! JEST ONE LITTLE BITTY PEEK CAIN'T HURT ME!



WHY-- IT'S NOTHIN' BUT EB'S FACE, LOOKIN' THE WAY I ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE IT-- **BURNIN' UP WITH PAIN!**



I TOLD YOU I'D PAY YOU BACK, EB! I TOLD YOU I'D... **WHAT'S THAT?** HIS FACE-- IT'S **CHANGIN'**-- AN' NOW THERE'S **SOMETHIN' ELSE** COMIN' OUT OF THE MIRROR!



AND SO, MARTHA CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THE--HEX OF HORROR-- MOST FATAL CURSE IN WITCHCRAFT

IT... IT CAN'T BE! NO! NO! KEEP AWAY!



NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! I'LL THROW THIS-- FIRE AT YOU!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE, FOOLISH MORTAL! YOU HAVE LOOKED UPON MY FACE-- AND MUST DIE!



STRUGGLE IS USELESS! YOU HAVE CAUSED YOUR OWN DOOM-- BY INVOKING THE FATAL HEX!

NO! NO! YOU WON'T GET ME!



THEN, WITH THE FRENZIED STRENGTH OF ONE FACED WITH DEATH, MARTHA FLUNG THE AWFUL FORM AWAY FROM HER, SWINGING THE BAG OF SILVER AROUND HER MADLY IN THE DARKNESS...

K-KEEP AWAY! DON'T COME NEAR ME!

HAA-HA-HA-HA!



FLAILING MADLY IN ALL DIRECTIONS, MARTHA FOUGHT HER WAY TO THE DOOR! SUDDENLY, SHE FELT SOMETHING TOUCH HER NECK, JERKING UPWARD! THEN, IN HER FRANTIC HASTE...

YOU WON'T GET ME! I'LL GET OUT OF HERE-- OHH!

THUD!



IT WAS THE WIDOW KLOPP WHO FINALLY FOUND THE BODIES! THEN, WHEN THE POLICE AND VILLAGE DOCTOR HAD ARRIVED...

POOR EB HAD A BAD HEART A LONG TIME-- IT JUST SEEMED TO GIVE OUT, I GUESS! BUT MARTHA-- THIS IS AWFULLY STRANGE! HOW ON EARTH COULD SHE HAVE STRANGLERD HERSELF THAT WAY?

CAN'T RIGHTLY SAY, DOC-- BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN IN THESE HILLS! YOU JEST CAIN'T EXPLAIN 'EM!

RECKON SO, SHERIFF-- IT'S JEST A MYSTERY!

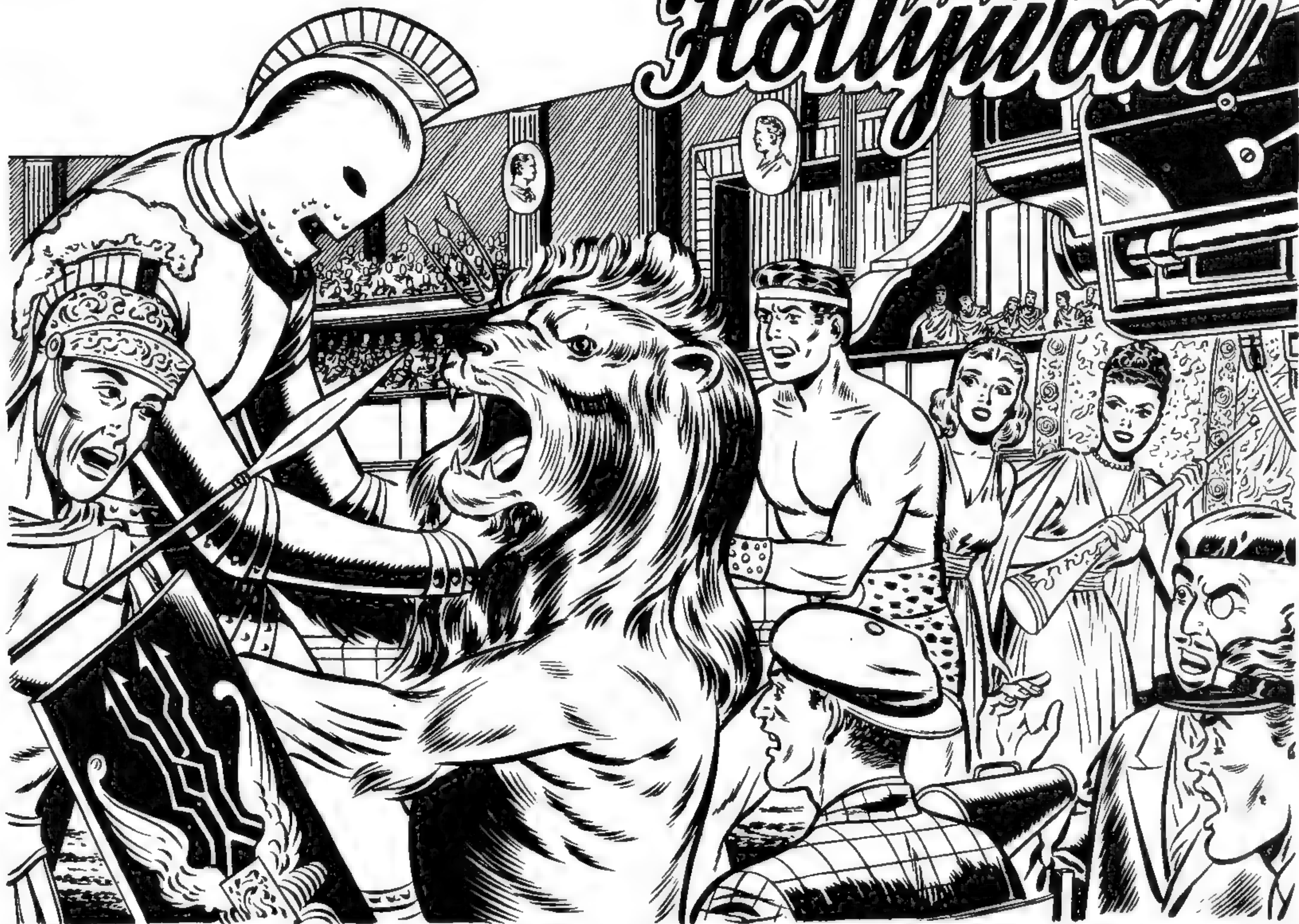


JUST A MYSTERY? PERHAPS! BUT EVERY YEAR THESE "MYSTERIES" TAKE PLACE WITHIN OUR BORDERS, MYSTERIES WHICH WE LIGHTLY BRUSH OFF WITH SUCH A PHRASE AS, "HE MUST HAVE HAD A HEX ON HIM!"

THE END

YOU NEVER HEARD OF THE GOD **DIS**-- BUT THE ANCIENT ROMANS BELIEVED HE RULED THE INFERNAL REGIONS, AND SURRENDERED A BRIDE TO HIM EACH YEAR-- HOPING TO WIN THE MERCIES OF THIS GRIM DIETY! BUT AS SANDRA FORBES LEARNED, MERCY WAS UNKNOWN TO **DIS**-- THE DEALER IN DEATH!

HORROR *in* Hollywood



THE OFFICE OF GLENN MAXWELL-- DIRECTOR-PRODUCER FOR EMPIRE STUDIOS --

GLENN-- SANDRA'S GOT NO RIGHT TO HOLD UP PRODUCTION ON "**THE GLADIATOR**"-- MERELY BECAUSE SHE WANTS THE LEADING ROLE YOU ASSIGNED TO MERRY! SANDRA'S **ALWAYS** BEEN ENVOUS OF MERRY---

LEAVE SANDRA TO ME, DON! I'VE SENT HER TO THE PROP DEPARTMENT TO LOOK OVER THE ROMAN COSTUMES AND OTHER ANTIQUE STUFF WE'VE BORROWED FROM ITALIAN MUSEUMS! IT'S GLAMOROUS ENOUGH TO AROUSE HER ENTHUSIASM-- AND MAYBE SHE'LL FEEL BETTER ABOUT MERRY'S GETTING TOP BILLING!

AT THAT MOMENT, SANDRA FORBES MAKES AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY--

THIS HAS POSSIBILITIES... "IN ANCIENT ROME, THE CEREMONIAL **TRUMPET OF DIS** WAS BLOWN ON FEBRUARY 15TH -- TO SUMMON THE GOD OF THE INFERNAL REGIONS! **DIS** WOULD APPEAR AND CHOOSE A BRIDE, WHO WOULD SHARE HIS EVIL POWER!"

IT **MIGHT** WORK... WHY CAN'T **DIS** BE DRAWN FROM THE PAST BY EVERYTHING THAT USED TO BE FAMILIAR TO HIM-- COSTUMES AND STAGE SETS DATING BACK TO ANCIENT ROME-- **THIS VERY TRUMPET?** AND WHY CAN'T I ARRANGE THINGS SO THAT WHEN **DIS** CHOOSES A BRIDE-- IT'LL BE **ME**? I'LL SHARE THE POWER OF **DIS**-- **SOMETHING I CAN TURN AGAINST MERRY LEWIS AND EVERYONE ELSE I HATE!**



NEXT DAY--

OKAY, SANDRA--IT'S A DEAL! YOU'RE WILLING TO LET MERRY STAR IN "THE GLADIATOR"-- PROVIDED WE DON'T START SHOOTING THE PICTURE UNTIL FEBRUARY 15TH!

RIGHT, GLENN-- AND INCIDENTALLY, HERE'S SOMETHING I PICKED OUT-- A TRUMPET TO ANNOUNCE THE ENTRANCE OF DON WAYNE INTO THE ARENA -- AS THE GLADIATOR!

THAT NIGHT-- NOW THAT EVERYTHING'S IRONED OUT-- I'D LIKE TO DRINK A TOAST TO "THE GLADIATOR"!

WAIT, DON-- DON'T YOU THINK I HEARD THAT RUMOR ABOUT YOU AND MERRY? HERE'S TO YOUR MARRIAGE-- AS SOON AS THE PICTURE'S FINISHED!

DARLING-- THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET!

THEY DON'T KNOW IT, BUT THERE'S GOING TO BE A BRIDE BEFORE THE PICTURE'S FINISHED-- AND IT'LL BE AN EVENT HOLLYWOOD WILL NEVER FORGET!

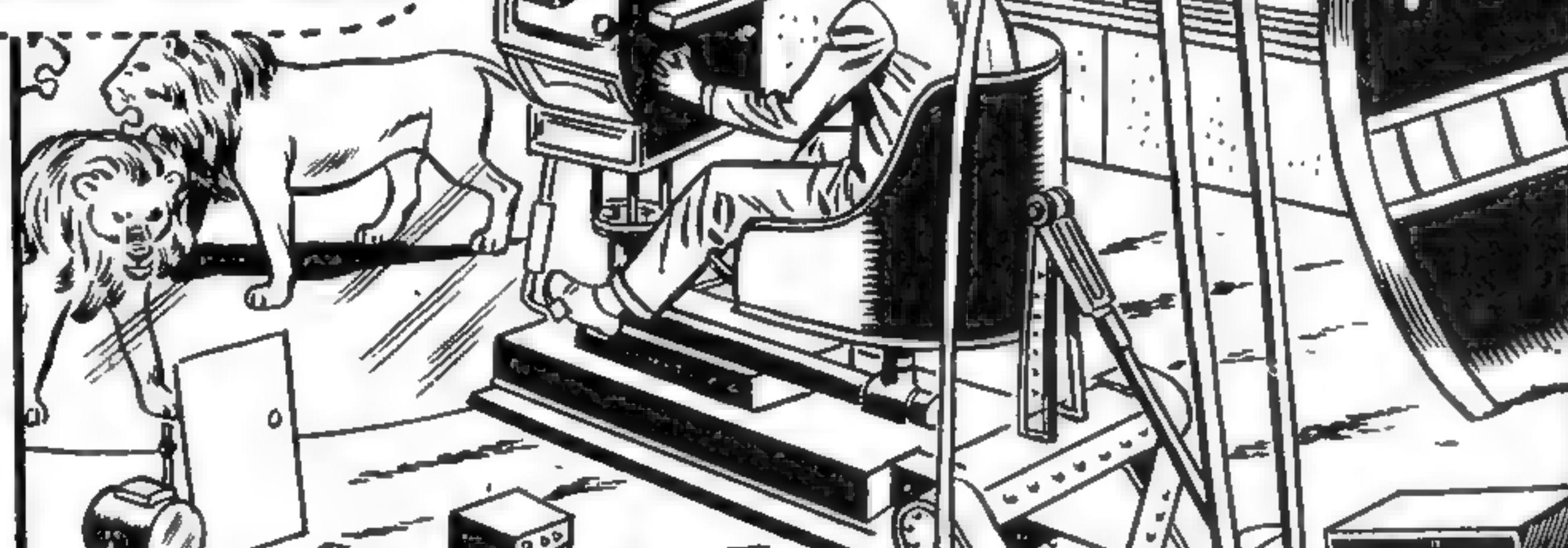


FEBRUARY 15TH WAS A FRENZIED DAY AT EMPIRE STUDIOS-- BUT NOT NEARLY AS FRENZIED AS IT USED TO BE-- IN ANCIENT ROME!

ALL THE TALENT OF HOLLYWOOD WENT INTO MAKING THE SETS FOR "THE GLADIATOR"-- REALISTIC ENOUGH TO EVOKE THE SPLENDOR OF ANCIENT ROME! BUT SANDRA FORBES WAS PREPARED FOR SOMETHING ELSE-- THE PAGAN HORROR OF THE INFERNAL ONE -- THE GOD CALLED DIS!

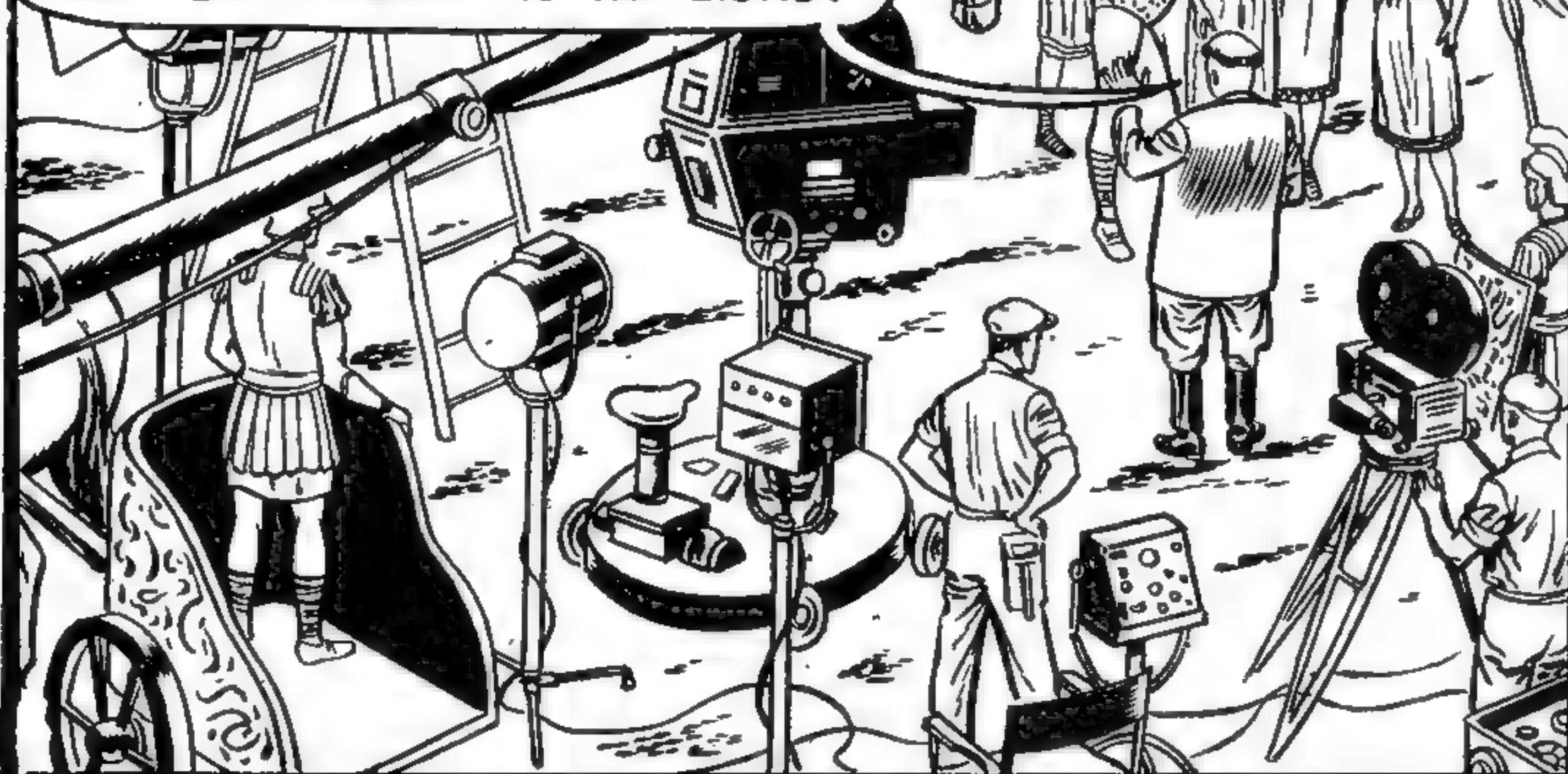
THAT COSTUME REALLY KICKS ME, HONEY! BUT WHAT'S WRONG-- GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

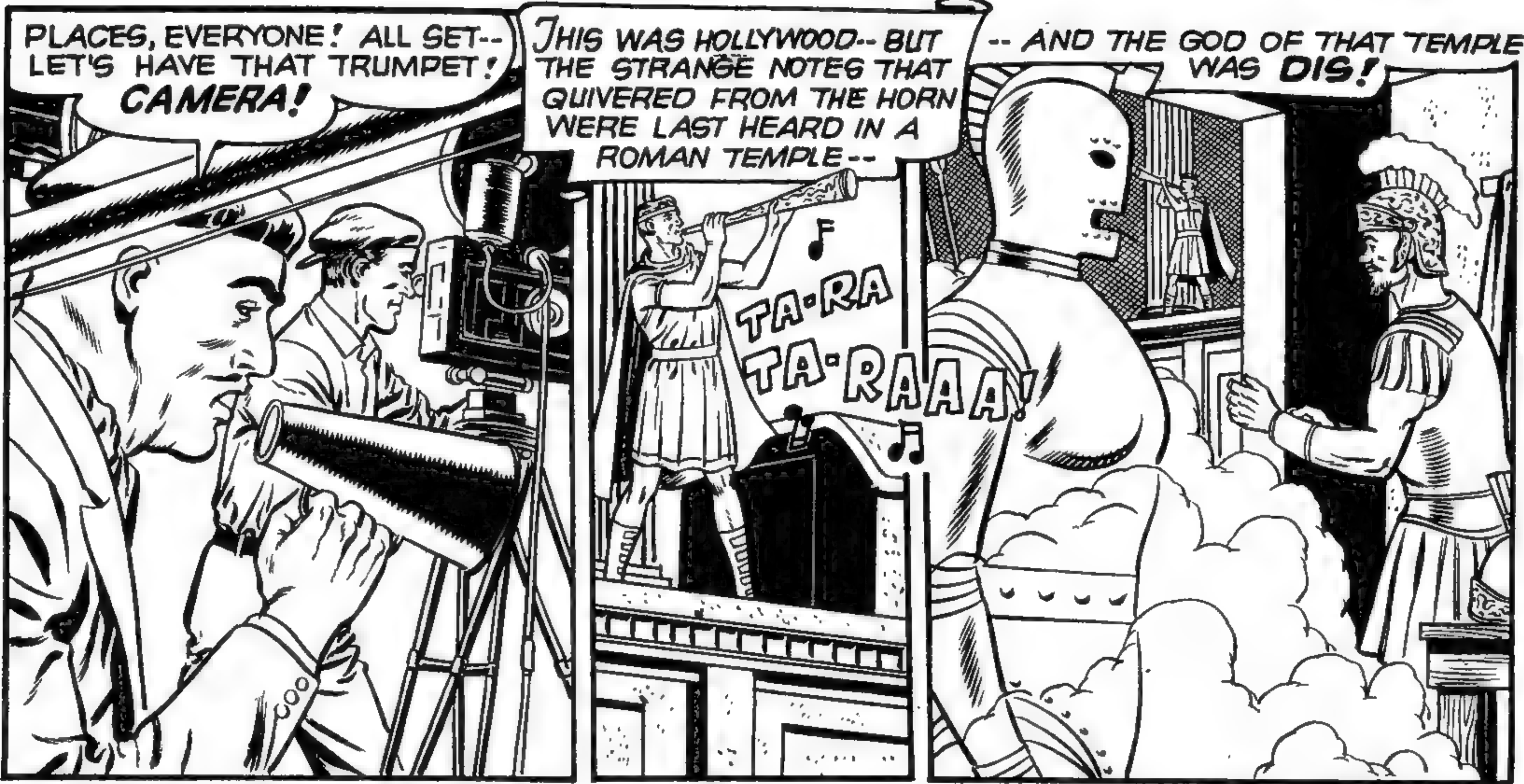
YES-- SANDRA! SHE SEEMS SMUGLY SATISFIED ABOUT SOMETHING, DON-- AND I'VE KNOWN HER LONG ENOUGH TO REALIZE IT MEANS TROUBLE!



OKAY-- WE'LL RUN THROUGH THE DETAILS OF THIS BIG SCENE! DON'S A GLADIATOR WHO'S GOING TO FIGHT A GIANT WARRIOR-- PLAYED BY JUMBO PETERSON! THE CROWD EXPECTS JUMBO TO WIN-- WHICH MEANS SANDRA, MERRY, AND THE REST OF THE GIRLS WILL BE THROWN TO THE LIONS!

AS I SAID BEFORE -- YOU GIRLS DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE LIONS! THE CAMERA WON'T SHOW THAT TRICK GLASS BARRIER-- BUT THE LIONS CAN'T POSSIBLY GET INTO THE ARENA!





PLACES, EVERYONE! ALL SET--
LET'S HAVE THAT TRUMPET!
CAMERA!

THIS WAS HOLLYWOOD-- BUT
THE STRANGE NOTES THAT
QUIVERED FROM THE HORN
WERE LAST HEARD IN A
ROMAN TEMPLE--

-- AND THE GOD OF THAT TEMPLE
WAS **DIS!**



AS JUMBO PETERSON PREPARES TO
ENTER THE ARENA--

HEY, MUG-- QUIT
YOUR SHOVING!
THAT'S MY CUE!

DIS-- HAS BEEN
SUMMONED!

BLAM!

ONLOOKERS QUAILED BEFORE THE THUDDING FOOT-
STEPS-- THE FIERY GLARE FROM
THE IRON FEATURES--

MANY... MAIDENS!
DIS... ONCE MORE...
CAN CHOOSE...
A BRIDE!

THE COSTUME DESIGNER **DID** DETECT
ONE DETAIL-- BUT WHAT ARE DETAILS
IN HOLLYWOOD?

WAIT A MINUTE,
GLENN-- WHERE'D
JUMBO GET THAT
HELMET AND MAKE-
UP JOB? HE'S NOT
SUPPOSED TO
LOOK LIKE
THAT!

SO WHAT-- IT'S
TERRIFIC! COME
ON, DON-- GET
IN THERE AND
MIX THINGS
WITH HIM!



SO FAR, EVENTS HAD FOLLOWED THE SCRIPT FAIRLY CLOSELY-- BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT--

HOLY MACKEREL, JUMBO-- TAKE IT EASY!

DON-- WATCH OUT! KEEP AWAY FROM THAT THING!

CLANG!

DIS COMES-- FOR BRIDE!

GOOD HEAVENS! THAT CREATURE ISN'T HUMAN-- WHAT IS IT?

POW!

I'LL TELL YOU-- HE'S A ROMAN GOD-- AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT BROUGHT HIM HERE!

CUT! IF THIS IS A GAG-- SOMEONE'S WINDING UP WITH A CANCELLED CONTRACT!

YOU WANT A HUMAN BRIDE! CHOOSE ME, DIS-- LET ME SHARE YOUR POWER AND SHOW THESE FOOLS WHAT IT CAN MEAN!

DIS-- HEARS! DIS-- IS PLEASED!

DIS-- HAS CHOSEN! DIS-- EMBRACES-- HIS BRIDE!

DON-- HE'S GOT THE STRENGTH OF A BULLDOZER! GET SANDRA AWAY FROM HIM!

THIS IS THE MOMENT SANDRA DREAMED OF-- AND NOW-- AS THE CRUSHING GRIP TIGHTENS--

HE'S AN-- IRON MONSTER! STOP-- LET ME GO!

YOU ASKED-- TO BE-- A BRIDE OF DIS!

AN IRON MONSTER! WHAT CHANCE HAS FLESH AND BONE-- WHAT CHANCE HAS SANDRA?

DIS-- TAKES BRIDES-- TO KILL!

OH!!

LET ME HANDLE HIM!

CRASH!



AS THE TERRIBLE FORM PLODS THROUGH THE STUDIO WITH HIS HELPLESS CAPTIVE--

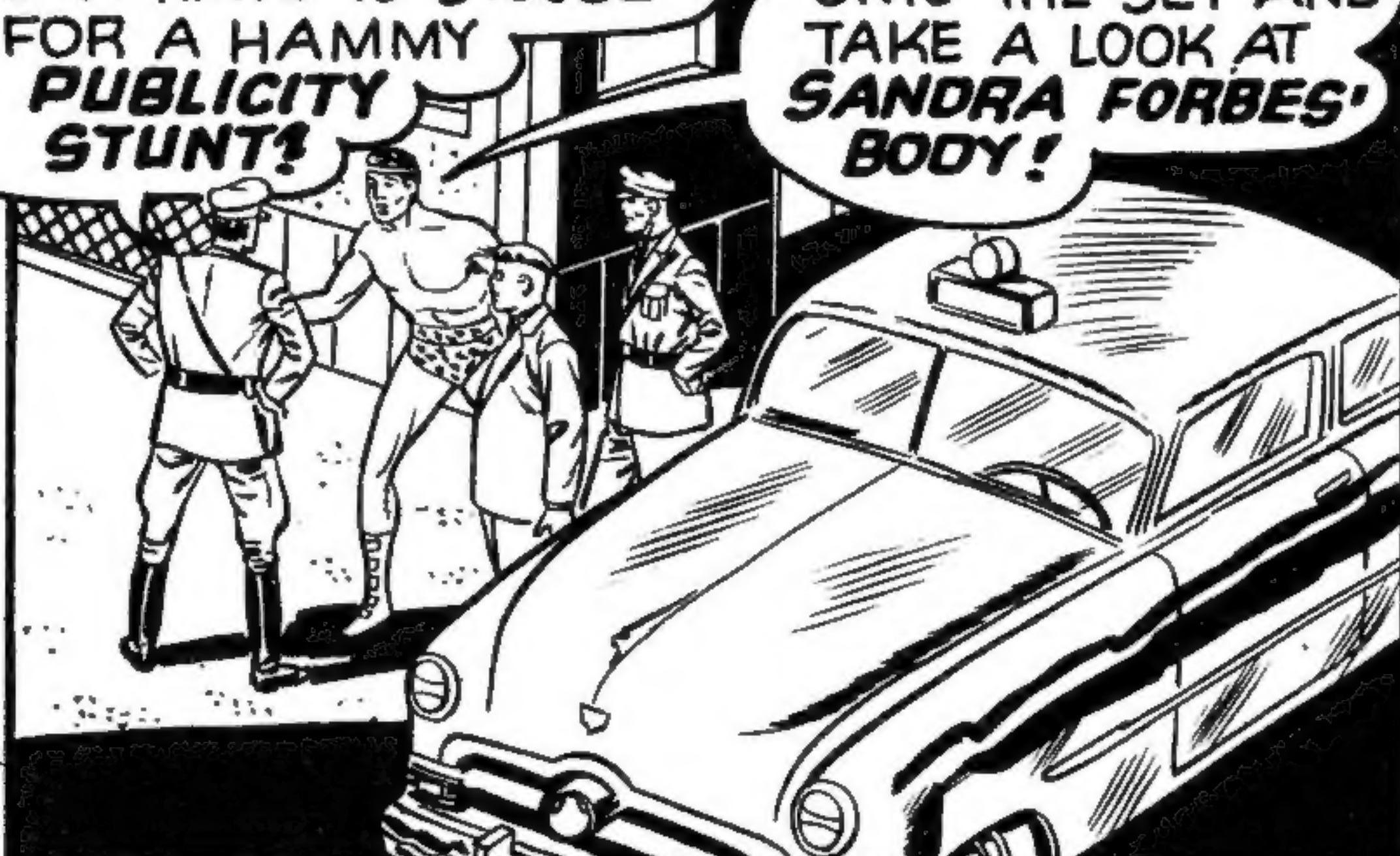
BUT WHEN THE POLICE CAME-- IT SOUNDED LIKE AN OLD STORY!

LET GO, YOU FOOLS! DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET HIM TAKE MERRY?

WHAT GOOD'LL IT DO-- IF YOU GET YOURSELF KILLED? RELAX, DON-- YOU GOT TO LEAVE IT TO THE POLICE!

SO THIS IRON MAN HEADED DOWN WILTSHIRE BOULEVARD WITH MERRY LEWIS, HUH? LOOK, FELLAS-- SINCE WHEN DOES THE LAW HAVE TO STOOGE FOR A HAMMY PUBLICITY STUNT?

WE'RE WASTING TIME! IF YOU'VE GOT TO BE CONVINCED-- COME ONTO THE SET AND TAKE A LOOK AT SANDRA FORBES' BODY!



WELL?

HOLY SMOKE-- WHERE IS SHE? I TELL YOU THAT IRON GOD CRUSHED SANDRA TO DEATH-- AND HER BODY WAS LYING RIGHT HERE!

GLENN-- LOOK! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO SANDRA'S BODY!

YOU COMICS ARE CARRYING A JOKE TOO FAR! TRY IT AGAIN-- AND I'LL YANK THE TWO OF YOU IN FRONT OF A JUDGE!

THAT NIGHT, DON PACES THE DARK- ENED STUDIO-- HOPELESSLY GROPING FOR A CLUE TO THE UNKNOWN!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT-- SANDRA EXPECTED DIS-- SO THERE MUST BE SOME WAY IN WHICH HE CAN BE SUMMONED! IT'S MY ONE CHANCE OF FINDING MERRY-- BUT HOW CAN I LEARN THE METHOD-- WITH SANDRA DEAD?



HOLY MACKEREL -- IT'S SANDRA'S GHOST!

I DIED A VICTIM OF MY OWN HATRED-- BUT NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT LOVE MEANS TO YOU AND MERRY-- I WANT TO MAKE AMENDS IN THE AFTERLIFE! THERE'S WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, DON-- BLOW A BLAST ON THE TRUMPET!



LOOK-- INTO THE MISTS OF THE BEYOND! THEY'RE COMING-- DIS AND MERRY!



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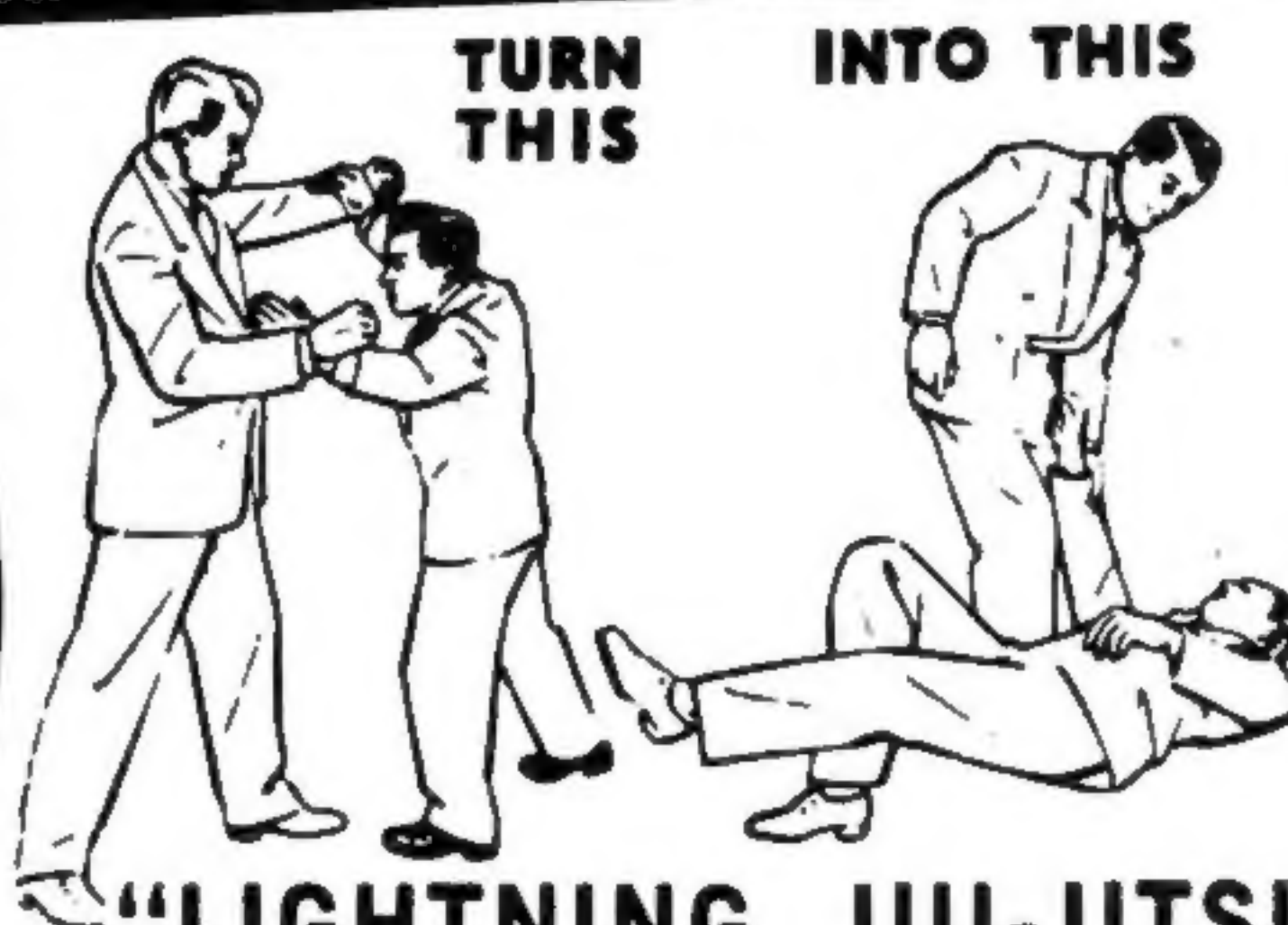
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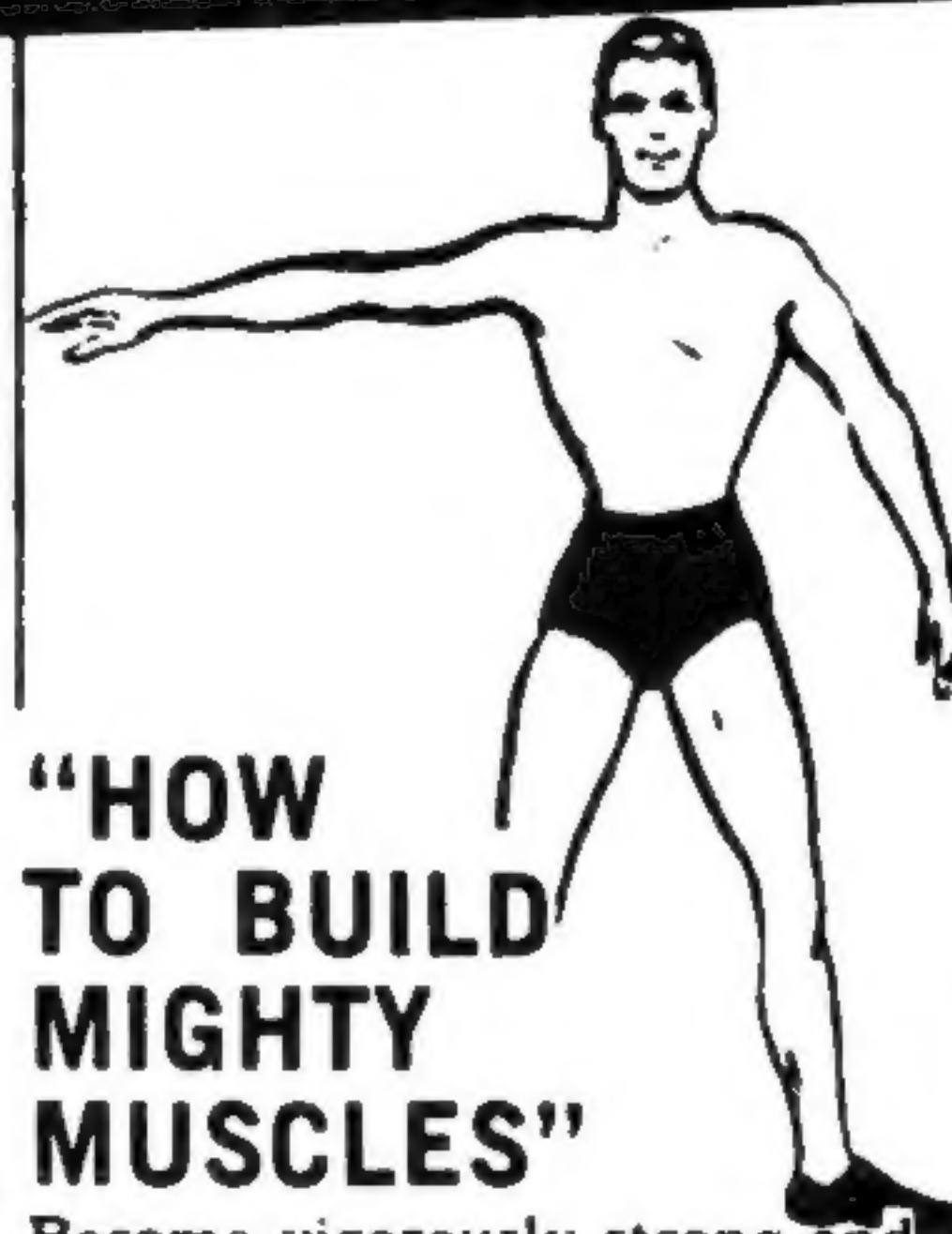
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